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February 1957

M I N U T E S

of the

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of the

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Geneva,
February 4 - 8, 1957

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

M I N U T E S

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MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Geneva, Switzerland
February 4 - 8,1957

1. The meeting was called to order at 8.30 p.m. on February 4th by Dr.Fry in the chair, who opened the meeting with prayer. Prayers at other sessions were led by Dr.Eugene Carson Blake, the Bishop of Chichester, Dr.Martin Niemöller, Bishop Barbieri, the Metropolitan James of Philadelphia, Dr.Kathleen Bliss and Dr.Ernest A. Payne.

2. Agenda

The agenda was submitted and accepted.

3. Attendance

Honorary President : The Bishop of Chichester
President : Bishop Sante Uberto Barbieri
Chairman : Dr.Franklin Clark Fry
Vice-Chairman : Dr.Ernest A.Payne
General Secretary : Dr.W.A.Visser 't Hooft
Members of the Executive Committee :
Dr.Eugene Carson Blake
Dr.Kathleen Bliss
Professor J.L.Hromadka
Metropolitan James of Philadelphia
Dr.Martin Niemöller
Dean Liston Pope.

Specially invited to attend:
Sir Kenneth Grubb
Professor H. d'Espine
Dr.Eugene Smith
The Rev.S.Marantika
The Metropolitan James of Melita

Staff: Dr.Bilheimer, Dr.Cavert, Dr.Cooke, Mr.House , Dr.Nolde

4. Messages

Greetings were received from the Australian Council of Churches and President Boegner. Greetings were sent to Dr. Adolf Keller on the occasion of his 85th birthday on February 7th. Congratulation was sent to Dr.John Baillie on his being made a Companion of Honour.

5. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held at Vienna were confirmed.

6. Report of the General Secretary

Dr.Visser 't Hooft said that international crises in the past six months had necessarily concentrated the attention of the Officers on points where Church and world met rather than on ecclesiastial affairs. The decision to hold the Central Committee in Hungary in 1956 had been justified. It was important to recall that movements of renewal in the Hungarian churches had occurred before the political events of the end of October. It was in this connection that he had spoken of "a new day in the life of the church". At the end of October a L.W.F. and W.C.C. convoy reached Budapest with much needed supplies to be used by the churches. When the Russian army intervened, the Officers felt that they must speak out in view of the Assembly's statements and the reference of the Central Committee at Galyateto to the right of peoples to choose their governments. Statements in the form of references to past statements of the Assembly carried more weight than new declarations by the Officers. The W.C.C. had been able to go into operation immediately when the refugees began to flood out of Hungary. It had proved to be practically impossible to give any further help inside Hungary. The General Secretary had applied for a visa for Hungary but had not received one.

It was the desire of the World Council that the churches in Hungary should have freedom in choice of leaders, religious education, evangelistic work and contacts with other churches. Appeals for funds for help to the Hungarian Churches and refugees had received widespread support in the Churches in Asia as well as in Europe and America.

The Suez crisis had coincided with the Hungarian crisis and inter-acted with it. The Officers of the W.C.C. had to speak on both crises. Ecumenical leaders in Britain and France had from the start taken an ecumenical line i.e. looking at the whole problem not in the national light only but of the total world and total Christian situation. With the active cooperation of the C.C.I.A., contacts had been maintained with the church leaders in France, Britain, the United States and Egypt. Reactions from churches in countries not directly involved showed how great a shock the Franco-British action in Egypt had caused and that the statement of the Officers had been received very positively.

Though it was too early to draw definitive conclusions on these events three provisional conclusions could be noted. (i) It was a great thing to have an ecumenical movement in such a situation. (ii) It became apparent that many people in the churches had not yet begun to realise what an ecumenical attitude was, or that Churches represented in World Council Assemblies had ever said anything relevant together on such questions. (iii) The inter-continental situation had greatly deteriorated, and there was therefore an added

obligation on the W.C.C. to show what it meant to be a "World Council of Churches".

The planned meeting with the representatives of the Moscow Patriarchate had been postponed at the request of the Patriarchate. It was reliably reported that as a result of the crises the Russian Church leaders did not feel that the atmosphere was right for a first full-dress meeting with the World Council. The public relations and publicity problems for the W.C.C. would also have been very difficult under the circumstances but the officers had agreed that no proposal for postponement should be made by the W.C.C. The Officers' statements on Suez and Hungary had been sent to Moscow "for information". The letter from the Patriarchate made it clear that they wished to keep the door open for a meeting. The most regrettable result was the delay in entering into relations with other churches, e.g. in Esthonia, Roumania and Bulgaria which had indicated that they hoped to make official contact with the World Council as soon as the conversations with Moscow had taken place.

The very serious situation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek-speaking minority in Istamboul had been the subject of constant concern. On the closely related subject Cyprus the main responsibility had lain with the C.C.I.A.

There had been a very serious deterioration in the situation in North Africa. Hitherto it had been felt that events there concerned the French Church rather than the World Council, but now Tunis and Morocco were independent and French friends had invited him to take a personal interest in the Algerian churches. The tragedy was that there was no indigenous Church, and that between two peoples as much mixed up as the French and the North Africans there was almost nowhere a place of Christian contact. His visit to North Africa had made him feel deeply the guilt of not taking seriously even the study of the Islamic world. The Inter-Church Aid Division had plans for action in Tunisia and Algeria in support of the churches concerned.

During the year, W.C.C. contacts with other continents were being intensified. The Secretary of the Youth Department was now leading an international team which was visiting Latin American Churches for three months. The Rapid Social Change study was developing extremely important new work in Africa. Dr.Oscar Lee's investigations regarding W.C.C. action on racial tensions were taking him to Rhodesia, Kenya, Pakistan, India, Ceylon and Malaya. New member churches were coming forward in Africa. The all-important conference of Asian Churches and Christian Councils would be held at Prapat in Sumatra in March.

Lastly there had been important new informal contacts with Roman Catholics. Dr.Harms had had a most sympathetic welcome while making an unofficial visit to Rome. There was a genuine interest in high places in the Roman Catholic Church in having full and uptodate knowledge of the World Council. He (Dr.Visser 't Hooft) had himself had meetings with Roman Catholic leaders in France, Germany and Tunisia. He had the impression that there were new possibilities of discussion - not of organisational relations - but of great value and conducted with great frankness e.g. with regard to the situations in Columbia and Spain. The biography of the Abbé Couturier recently published included most valuable information.

It was agreed that the different points in the General Secretary's Report should be taken up under separate headings.

7. The W.C.C. and the Hungarian Crisis

The Committee heard a first-hand confidential report of the church situation in Hungary at the beginning of February. All churches still enjoyed freedom of preaching, but some changes in the decree of November 6 concerning religious teaching for children were feared. Pastors could now visit hospitals and conduct services there. The situation of many was desperate as a result of the rise in the costs of food and fuel. This was specially the case of pastors with large families. Relief distribution through the Hungarian Red Cross had failed.

Bishop Ordass at present had a major position as the mediator on behalf of all Churches with the Government. The situation of the Lutheran Church had been comparatively little affected. The Reformed Church was however in a tragic situation. Mr.Horvath, President of the Church Office in the Ministry of Education, had declared that the World Council had interfered in the internal affairs of the Reformed Church and had been politically active in encouraging the counter-revolution in Hungary after October 29th. The W.C.C. had instructed the Reformed Church how to support the counter-revolution. There had been talk of an offer of 5 million dollars to the Reformed Church. Political plots had been made at Galyatetö. Dean Pap had been in touch with the counter-revolutionary activity of the Authors Club. The W.C.C. had distributed the manifesto of the so-called 'Confessing Church' at Arnoldshain and elsewhere. The Minister had warned i) that the Government could withhold funds from the Reformed Church if it did not accept the present situation, and ii) that he (the Minister) had protected Dean Pap from the security police for the last 5 or 6 weeks but that his patience was exhausted. The report continued that the Reformed and Lutheran Churches would stand together. Dr.Pap had resigned as Dean of the Reformed Seminary and Deputy Bishop. No communication of any kind from outside Hungary should be attempted with those church leaders who were at present in a specially exposed position. The W.C.C. must maintain unity in prayer with such leaders. The life of the smaller churches (Baptist and Methodist) was relatively undisturbed up to February and the President of the Church Office had said that he had no serious questions regarding them. The proposed meeting of the General Assembly of the Reformed Church called for February and all other similar church meetings were prohibited until after March 31st, unless approval was given by the security police. As to the leadership of the Reformed Church - Bishop Bereczky was a very sick man. Bishop Peter was now Director of the Institute of Cultural Relations which was housed in the same building as the Ministry of Education. Bishop Dezsery was on the staff of Radio Budapest. Bishop Ravasz was at liberty but the Government had declared that it only recognised the legal situation in the Church as of October 22nd. Bishop Györy was thus the only officially recognised active Bishop of the Reformed Church. It was reported but not confirmed that the church leaders had on January 15th signed a declaration that they accepted the Government's view of the legal position.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft made a statement in which he formally and explicitly denied the truth of the accusations made against the World Council by the President of the Hungarian Church Office. (i) The World Council had not only not published the so-called 'Confessing Church' statement, but when he had been asked about publication he had advised against it. (ii) There had not been and could not have been any offer of five million dollars by the W.C.C.

to the Reformed Church. The only appeal made for Hungary was made in November after the dates of the risings in Budapest and was for $ 600,000 primarily for refugees from Hungary. (iii) He had not given any instructions by telephone to the Reformed Church leaders in Budapest during the time of the rising. In these conversations he had heard reports on the church situation (including the revival of the Christian youth organisations, etc.) and had asked what help the W.C.C. might give to the churches for their religious work. There had been only four conversations with Budapest during those days and these had not been concerned at all with political matters. (iv)There had been no political plotting at Galyatetö. No member of the Central Committee had had advance information regarding the revolution, and in the light of subsequent events, it was clear that the members of the Central Committee had been completely unaware of the revolutionary movements which were already beginning in July.

Dr.Fry said that Mr.Horvath apparently distinguished between negotiations with the Government over such a case as that of Bishop Ordass, and any other relationships not with the Government, which were regarded as being of the nature of 'conspiracy'. If Dr.Pap were sent for trial, the W.C.C. must consider how it could make its voice heard either in the Court or outside. Public opinion outside Hungary might still have some influence.

Dr.Nolde said that the real attitude of the W.C.C. to the rising in Hungary was evidenced by a cable to the American Secretary of State on November 3rd, stating that church leaders believed that it was unwise and impossible to return to 1945 and urged restraint in action.

Supplementary information was given to the Committee. Bishop Vetö had resigned as Bishop and as a member of the Central Committee, but would continue to have some place in the Church. The position of the Orthodox Churches at present resembles that of other small churches in Hungary. The Lutheran and Reformed Theological Seminaries were not open but the Lutheran would probably reopen shortly. 15 of the students of the Reformed Seminary were outside Hungary of whom 3 had previously been granted W.C.C. scholarships. It was reported that 3 Lutheran theological students were outside Hungary and that if the seminary reopened it was expected that 33 out of 36 students would attend. There was no special danger in corresponding with church leaders (other than those under special attack) provided that the correspondence was exclusively on ecclesiastical matters and did not refer to personal or political matters. Prudence should be shown in sending food packages. There was little evidence of the allegedly anti-semitic character of the October risings. The Chief Rabbi had specifically stated there had been no Jewish casualties in October and November. The Hungarian Red Cross was unable to function effectively as an agency for the distribution of relief supplies.

Discussion followed on the action which the W.C.C. should take in relation to Mr.Horvath's accusations. It was agreed to ask the Officers of the W.C.C. to confer with the staff of the C.C.I.A. and at a later session to bring back a proposal for action. (see page 60 below)

8. The World Council and the Middle East

The General Secretary reported that all means of maintaining communications and obtaining information had been used. Dr.Russell Stevenson of Church World Service had made a most valuable visit,

and Dr.van Beyma had spent most of January in the area. In reply to a question he stated that it was clear that the position of British and French missions and related churches were very difficult indeed. Sir Kenneth Grubb said that only two British missionaries out of 60 remained in Egypt. Their personal assets had been frozen. Dr. Nolde was taking up through diplomatic channels the question of the statement by the Egyptian Government which appeared to suggest that British missionaries had been included in a group of those expelled because their activities were 'detrimental to the Egyptian Government'. The position of British missionaries elsewhere in the Middle East was also extraordinarily difficult.

(The Chairman indicated that further consideration would be given to this subject under the reports of the C.C.I.A. and the Division of I.C.A.) (See items 13 and 22 below)

9. Visit of Ecumenical Youth Team to South America

Bishop Barbieri reported that an international team of six young people led by Mr.B.Th.Molander, and including men from Africa, Canada, France, India and Sweden was spending three months in visiting the churches in 12 countries in Latin America. The theme of the Latin American Union of Evangelical Youth (ULAJE) which was held in Columbia in November and which the team attended was 'Christian Liberty'. Bishop Barbieri had been able to observe the team at work in Argentine and Uruguay. He had been most impressed by the reception which they had received. This was the first time an ecumenical team had visited Latin America; previously contacts had generally been with North America only. The visit had stimulated the desire of some younger Latin American ministers to come to Europe to study. The divisions among Protestants in Latin America made ecumenical visitation specially valuable .

The Bishop urged the need for the W.C.C. to take more direct responsibility for active representation of the ecumenical movement in Latin America. Opponents of the W.C.C. were particularly active in Peru, Chile and Brazil. The W.C.C. should produce literature in Spanish and Portugese. Mr.House added that the team had visited Latin America under the auspices of the World Council of Christian Education and the World Council of Churches. They had made special efforts to speak in Spanish and so to be able to make personal contacts even with quite small groups,

10. Formal presentation of the statements issued by the Officers on Suez and on Hungary

Dr.Fry formally reported to the Executive that the Officers had issued the following statements:

> " Christians throughout the world are profoundly shocked and sorrow-stricken at the tragic reversal suffered by the Hungarian people, who had clearly asserted their desire for freedom and independence in national and church life. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches and the Council's General Secretary call to the attention of the member churches the immediate relevance of certain statements in the appeal to churches and governments adopted by the Evanston Assembly. They refer particularly to the claim that fear and suspicion cannot be replaced by respect and trust unless

powerful nations remove the yoke which now prevents other nations and peoples from freely determining their own government and form of society. We urge the member churches to continue to seek this objective. As also stated at Evanston, Christians must stand together with all who, in the struggle for freedom, suffer pain and trial. Our unity in this fellowship will remain unbroken whatever happens and will also find expression in prayer for the people of Hungary in their hour of trial and for the churches in their witness to our crucified and risen Lord."

" The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee and the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches request all member churches of the Council in this grave situation in the Middle East to remember what the churches said together about international order and most recently at the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches at Evanston. They direct particular attention to the passages in the Evanston Report where the churches state that no nation in an international dispute has the right to be judge in its own cause, where they call upon the nations to pledge that they will refrain from the threat or the use of force against the territorial integrity of any state, and where they affirm that any measures to deter or combat aggression should conform to the requirements of the United Nations Charter. They finally ask the churches to pray to Almighty God that He will guide the governments and the peoples in the ways of justice and peace. "

Dr.Blake and the Bishop of Chichester expressed appreciation of the report. After further discussion

it was agreed that "the two statements of the Officers be entered in the minutes with commendation".

11. Relations with the Patriarchate of Moscow

Dr.Visser 't Hooft referred to the information he had given in his report. He emphasised the fact that the Patriarchate had requested that arrangements for the meeting should be postponed "for a little while". He suggested that the matter of the next move should be left to the Officers. As soon as there was a change in the situation the Officers would decide when to make an enquiry about the date of a meeting. He assumed that the decision that the W.C.C. delegation should consist of the Chairman, the General Secretary and Metropolitan James of Melita should stand.

It was agreed that the correspondence between the World Council and the Moscow Patriarchate should not be published.

12. Situation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

The General Secretary reminded the Committee that this matter had been on the agenda of the meetings of the World Council several times since the tragic events of September 1955 in Istanbul. In the last few months the situation of the Patriarchate and of the Greek-speaking minority in Istanbul had been deteriorating seriously. Mr. Maxwell of the W.C.C. staff had kept in close touch and had produced a series of admirably clear reports. The C.C.I.A. had been continuously concerned with this affair.

Metropolitan James of Melita said that the situation was extremely serious. The Patriarchate was now really threatened with expulsion from the city in which it had been established for 1500 years. At this critical moment the Patriarch turned to the World Council for help. The private member's motion in the Turkish Parliament on November 1956 calling for the expulsion of the Patriarchate was now known to have support in the Turkish Government. If the Turkish Government received no satisfaction from the discussions on Cyprus, the possibility of the revision of the Lausanne Treaty or of riots much worse than those of September 1955 would arise.

Consultations with the General Secretariat led to the conclusion that an aide-mémoire might be sent to certain Governments. Time was short and action must be taken quickly before it was too late. The Ecumenical Patriarch would not allow himself to be expelled except by force. If he were expelled he would go to Switzerland or some other country where he could continue to function as a 'Patriarch in exile'. If the Christian world permitted such a thing to happen without protest, it would be bankrupt .

Metropolitan James of Philadelphia said that the bishops and priests of the Patriarchal Church had well understood the meaning of the riots in September 1955 but had not liked to protest openly. The Patriarch himself had told the Turkish Government that he would not use these events for any propaganda against Turkey. Believing that the mission of the Patriarchate in Turkey was for the good of the whole world he had stated that he would accept the promise of the Government of reparation and respect for the rights of the minority. But many Christian people had interpreted the riots as a warning to leave, and today many of the wealthiest members of the Greek speaking minority were leaving. But the case of the Patriarchate is not a Greek or an Orthodox affair only but a concern of the whole Christian world. Christendom cannot be content to see an ancient Church destroyed in such a way. In Istanbul Christians go day by day to their ruined churches to pray. On the Turkish side religious fanaticism is becoming even more influential than nationalism. Tension between Muslims and Christians is increasing elsewhere. If the Patriarchate is expelled from Istanbul, the Christian Communities will be expelled from the Near Eastern countries too. The Christians of Istanbul prayed that God would be with them, forgive them their sins, and show them how to act.

Dr.Nolde reminded the Committee that the C.C.I.A. had made representation on four points: - i) In Cyprus to secure the recognition of the principle of self-determination by the British Government and an acceptance of a period of constitutional development by the Cypriots. Within the past two months there had been extensive and continuing conversations with Greek, Turkish and American officials at a high level. (ii) The question of the riots in Istanbul in

September 1955 had been taken up with the Turkish and American Government at the highest levels. (iii) The question of the arrests of leaders of the Greek-speaking minority had been discussed with the appropriate section of the State Department, (iv) The danger to the Patriarchate was already under discussion. But the C.C.I.A. was in a difficult position since the more they pushed for self-determination in Cyprus, the more they aggravated the plight of the Greek-speaking minority in Turkey. With respect to the Patriarch, ten months ago the American Government had taken a firm line with the Turkish Government over Istanbul, but since October 23rd, 1956 the strains and stresses between the British and American Governments had produced a dilemma. The American Government was reluctant to press the British Government too hard on Cyprus. On Istanbul, official policy is still to sustain the Patriarch, but feelers were being put out to see whether an exchange of population would solve the problem.

Sir Kenneth Grubb made 5 points : (i) On the legal aspect - the position of the Greek minority was governed by the Lausanne Treaty of 1923. The signatories were the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Japan. Neither the United States nor Greece were parties. It was not known for certain whether or not the United Nations could be considered to have taken over from the League of Nations any responsibilities for the non-Muslim minorities in Turkey. (ii) One reason for caution in Cyprus was the effect on minorities in Turkey. Self-determination would be attained by four other British territories in 1957, but reserve in Cyprus was due partly to defence and partly to realisation of what might be involved elsewhere. (iii) The Turkish Ambassador in London had expressed himself "immoderately" on the subject of Istanbul. But while there is evidence that the Turks would continue to take a firm line, the language of "immoderate violence" might not be sustained by the Government. (iv) Dr.Nolde and Sir Kenneth had seen the Archbishop of Canterbury last week and discussed both Cyprus and Istanbul. The Archbishop was taking important initiatives. (v) Further discussion on tactics was necessary. He was not convinced of the wisdom of a direct approach by the W.C.C. to three, four or five Governments; but he thought that the W.C.C. might well stimulate the Churches in certain countries to approach their governments.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft suggested that the Executive should first answer the question : Is it the policy of the W.C.C. to oppose any move to expel the Patriarchate from Istanbul? He saw three reasons for a positive answer :(i) The Patriarch himself, as head of a member church and at the same time the true ecumenical centre of a whole group of churches, many of which members of the W.C.C., was deeply convinced in his conscience that he ought to stay.(ii) The historical reason: It was the duty of the Church to have a long memory and to honour its parents. The Church of Constantinople was one of our parents. (iii) Expulsion would certainly weaken the Orthodox Churches - whether the Moscow Patriarchate took the lead or not. It would remove a centre which attempts to hold a whole part of Christendom together. He therefore concluded that the starting point of action by the W.C.C. must be the conviction that they must stand behind the Ecumenical Patriarch in his desire to stay in Istanbul.

The Bishop of Chichester said that the menace to the Ecumenical Patriarchate was a menace to Christianity. It should be their considered policy as Christians of different denominations to stand by the Patriarch and the Patriarchate. The question of means

was more difficult. Public action might be unwise; but actions of other kinds by or stimulated by the W.C.C. might be serviceable if prudently and strongly but not publicly pressed. The Bishop recalled that in 1923, when the diplomats had been inclined to acquiesce in the explusion of the Patriarchate, strong pressure by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the London Times had led Lord Curson to declare that the British Government would not tolerate the exclusion of the Patriarchate from the Treaty. The expulsion of the Patriarchta would be a clear outrage to religion and culture. Strong representations to governments might have some effect.

Dean Pope stressed the possible effects on Christian minorities in Moslem lands all over the world.

Dr.Nolde pointed out that neither the Greek nor the Turkish Governments were masters of the situation in their own countries. They were victims of previous propaganda. Metropolitan James of Melita asked for a correction: It was true that the Greek Government was largely at the mercy of public feeling, but in Turkey the Government 'made' public opinion.

Dr. Blake, speaking as a representative of a Church without close historical relations with the Orthodox and with increasing links with Protestant Churches in the Near East, promised full understanding for the Orthodox case over Istanbul.

Dr.Payne, representing a Church which had found relations with the Orthodox in South Eastern Europe difficult, said that there would be instinctive sympathy among Baptists if the threats came into force. But he asked if there was any possibility that the only way of setling these problems was by a radical exchange of populations which the Patriarch would be bound to oppose.

Dr. Nolde said that exchange would not meet the fundamental difficulties in Cyprus. Sir Kenneth Grubb said that exchange of populations should be opposed for many reasons.

Dr.Eugene Smith said that the position taken by the World Council on religious liberty made it crystal-clear that the Council must support the Patriarch. Metropolitan James of Melita said that experienced diplomats in Athens knew that if Cyprus was given to Greece, the next day the Patriarch would be expelled from Istanbul. There would be no question of exchanging the Turks in Cyprus for the Greeks in Istanbul.

It was agreed that the Committee should express its clear conviction that the Ecumenical Patriarchate should remain in Istanbul as of right.

The Bishop of Chichester and Dr.Visser 't Hooft were asked to draw up a statement on the basis of this motion incorporating the three reasons given by Dr.Visser 't Hooft and adding Dr.Eugene Smith's point. Discussion then proceeded on the use which might be made of such a statement.

Dr.Payne reminded the Committee that according to the rules only the Officers could make any public statement. Dr.Visser 't Hooft said that the Officers' suggestion was that the statement to be drawn up should be used primarily for the information of the leaders

of member Churches in the countries most concerned, that aide-mémoires should be drawn up for transmission through national councils of Churches to governments in London, Washington, Paris and Bonn, and that a small delegation should go privately from the W.C.C. to Ankara.

Dr.Nolde and Metropolitan James of Melita emphasised the need for speedy action. Dr.Smith asked if a non-Christian Government could be found which might make an approach on the issue of religious liberty. Sir Kenneth Grubb thought it would be best to approach either the four powers suggested or the surviving signatories of the Lausanne Treaty. In Britain he suggested action through the Archbishop of Canterbury personally rather than through the B.C.C. Dr.Nolde stressed the significance of Bonn.

The Chairman terminated the discussion by stating that the Officers had indicated their intention to act rapidly along the line indicated in the discussion.

At a subsequent session the following resolution was formally agreed by the Committee :

(Not for publication at this stage)

" The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches expresses its strong conviction that in view of the historical significance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate representing the heritage of more than sixteen centuries; in view of the crucial importance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as the centre of Eastern Orthodoxy; in view of the deep conviction of the Ecumenical Patriarch that it is his duty to remain at the Phanar and in the light of the generally accepted principle of religious liberty the Ecumenical Patriarchate should remain at Istanbul.

The Executive Committee approves the proposal of the Officers

(a) to request the Churches in certain countries to represent to governments the crucial importance of this question and
(b) to instruct the Officers to determine the time and manner in which an approach be made specifically to the Turkish Government. "

(N.B. This resolution is not to be used in approaches to governments. Special aide-mémoires are to be written for that purpose.

It was agreed that the General Secretary should send a copy of this resolution to the Ecumenical Patriarch privately with a covering letter expressing the sympathy of Churches throughout the world.

Finally Metropolitan James of Philadelphia expressed gratitude for the serious consideration given to this matter by the Executive Committee and staff. This action would be greatly appreciated by the Patriarch and the Holy Synod.

13. Report of the C.C.I.A.

Sir Kenneth Grubb said that Mr.Alan Booth had started work as Secretary of the London Office. A substantial regional committee on the Middle East was being formed. The Suez crisis had occupied

much time. He and Dr.Nolde had had the advantage of a Conference in Paris with French Protestant leaders. There was a deeper division among men of Christian conviction and in public opinion generally in Britain over Suez than over any other issue since the war.

On Cyprus, the main aspects of policy apart from the military action against terrorism were the Radcliffe Constitution, self-determination and partition. Debate would begin shortly in the U.N. Assembly. Action on behalf of the Churches in Britain depended largely on the Archbishop of Canterbury.

There was an obvious desire for more conversations between British and French leaders especially over differing approaches to colonial questions. Ghana, Nigeria, Malaya and Singapore would probably achieve self-determination this year with freedom to leave or to remain within the Commonwealth. In Nigeria and Malaya important issues of freedom for Christian witness arose.

Sir Kenneth paid a tribute to the work of Dr.Leimena a Vice-Chairman of the C.C.I.A. in Indonesia. He announced that the 'ethos' study had been launched.

Dr.Nolde said that the crises had put a heavy burden on the staff in New York and London. He described the concerns of the C.C.I.A. with the current agenda of the U.N.Assembly. The C.C.I.A. as such had taken no position on the Suez and Hungarian crises but had tried to assist and support the Officers of the W.C.C. and to provide information to the Churches while leaving them to make their own statements. The American Churches had agreed to wait until the French and British Churches had taken action.

On Cyprus and Istanbul Dr.Nolde summarised the policies described in the pervious discussion. He stressed the interrelation of many other problems. The report of the Beirut Conference had been reviewed but had been found to be still relevant. The C.C.I.A. had sustained the position that the W.C.C. sought to help those in need irrespective of their religion or race - e.g. homeless Egyptians and Jews in Egypt. Special problems under current consideration included the deportation of British and French missionaries from Egypt, the expropriation of church propriety in Yugoslavia, arrests in Istanbul, the treason trial in South Africa, visas for American citizens visiting Eastern Europe and the Near East, and for members of W.C.C. Committees visiting the U.S.A. this summer.

Dr.Blake expressed grave concern over the arrests in South Africa. Sir Kenneth Grubb said that the case was sub judice. 154 people had been arrested. He was in close touch with South African Commissioners of the C.C.I.A. He personally supported the fund that was being raised for the expenses of the defence and the support of the dependents under the auspices of the Archbishop of Capetown, the Bishop of Johannesburg and others.

Bishop Barbieri asked about the opening of the Protestant Seminary in Madrid. Dr.Visser 't Hooft replied that there was no change. The Spanish Government had let it be known indirectly that since the seals had been removed the Seminary could restart. But the Seminary had not restarted because to do so without any kind of official permission would be to put oneself at the mercy of the Government or any local official. On the other hand, the decision

by the majority of the members of the Patronato, the governing body of the Seminary, that legal proceedings should be started, had been revised on the strong advice of the diplomats who had been most active in the matter. The World Council would continue to keep up pressure for the principle that the Seminary should be allowed to operate.

After further discussion it was agreed to minute

> that the Executive Committee noted that in spite of many protests including its own (made at the Gilbulla meeting in February 1956) no permission had been given for the reopening of the Seminary and therefore urged the Officers and staff to use all available means to reach a solution: The Committee authorized Bishop Barbieri to continue conversations in Spain on its behalf.

Bishop Barbieri asked about the position in Columbia. Dr.Nolde replied that the C.C.I.A. had been advised that it was not a good time for Sir Kenneth Grubb and himself to make their proposed visit to Columbia. A case by case approach was perhaps wiser under present circumstances. The C.C.I.A. was using diplomatic channels, publicity and contacts with Roman Catholic laymen in the U.S.A. and U.K.

Bishop Barbieri said that the South American Churches felt that they had waited too long for results. Dr.Visser 't Hooft agreed that a special effort should be made to keep the Churches supplied with information about the actions that were being taken by the C.C.I.A. on this matter.

Dr.Pope asked whether any facilities were being granted to members of the Central Committee and others attending W.C.C. meetings in the U.S.A. this summer. Dr.Nolde replied that there was no disposition on the part of the American Government to exclude people from Communist countries. Some extra consideration might be shown to foreign clergymen by customs and immigration officials.

14. The Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches

With Dr.Payne in the Chair, Dr.Visser 't Hooft introduced the subject of the Third Assembly. Inquiries had shown that Paradinia, Ceylon, was the only really suitable site in Asia. Invitations had been received from the Council of Churches in Ceylon. Dr.Bilheimer would be visiting Ceylon shortly. The Committee might give him a mandate to discuss the situation with church leaders and civil authorities and to visit Paradinia.

The date was related to the choice of place. If the Assembly met in Ceylon it would have to be in December-January 1960-61.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft pointed out the importance of holding the Third Assembly in Asia after one in Europe and one in North America. After discussion it was agreed

> that the Executive receives with appreciation the invitation from the National Council of Churches of Ceylon , and informs the Council that it is giving sympathetic consideration to the invitation.

The Committee discussed the question of the cost of holding this Assembly in Ceylon. Dr.Blake said that while the cost to some Churches would be greater, the Churches which had to finance the travel of delegates from younger Churches in Asia would be relieved. Some reduction in the numbers of people sent might be desirable. Mr.Marantika said that the N.C.C. of Indonesia warmly welcomed the idea of an Assembly in Ceylon. The Bishop of Chichester said that a note of caution must be sounded regarding attendance by British delegates since the cost of travel would be doubled. The Central Committee should give serious attention to the scale of the meeting. Dr.Visser 't Hooft reminded the Executive that the decision of Evanston favoured an Assembly of 500 with the possibility pf a 20% variation either way i.e. from 400 to 600. Dr.Bliss stressed the value of a more intimate Assembly: categories of attendance should be reduced proportionately.

It was agreed

to authorize Dr.Bilheimer to explore the situation in discussion with the ecclesiastical and public authorities, to survey Paradinia and to report to the Executive.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft then introduced a memorandum on the function and the theme of the Third Assembly. He stressed the fact that this was only a preliminary paper and that a special committee of the Central Committee at Yale should go much further. This memorandum was not a formal document but notes which might help the Executive to decide what to put before the Central Committee in order to start discussion. The memorandum as presented reads as follows :

Concerning the function and the theme of the Third Assembly

In order to determine the theme (if any) and the content of the third Assembly it is first of all necessary to arrive at a common mind about the function of the Assembly.

The following preliminary suggestions are based on the presupposition that the third Assembly will take place in Asia.

Considerations to be kept in mind

1. With regard to the world situation and the Asian situation

   a) Post-Bandung Asia with its sense of "mission".

   b) The clash of "continentalisms".

   c) Nationalism and Syncretism combine in opposing Western Christian Missions.

   d) The opportunity to demonstrate that Christianity is an universal faith and not a foreign Western impact.

   e) The danger that the Assembly will be understood as a camouflaged re-affirmation of Western cultural aggressiveness. It must be shown that the Assembly is fundamentally religious and non-political.

2. With regard to the ecumenical situation

   a) There is a widespread feeling that the movement toward unity has spent its force - that we are not getting on much further.

b) This is mainly due to the fact that the recaptured vision of the Church as the one People of God which is the deepest motive of the ecumenical movement has not reached the level of the parish members. In practice, unity is equated with cooperation.

c) No advance can be expected until the vision of the wholeness, the essential unity, the "God-givenness" of the Church has been transmitted to a considerable section of the church members.

d) The third Assembly is to take place 50 years after the beginning of the modern ecumenical movement at the Edinburgh Conference. This is not only an occasion to express gratitude for the existence and record of the ecumenical movement, but also to show that there is a task ahead which can only be accomplished if the Churches move forward together.

3. <u>With regard to the theological situation</u>

a) The œcumenical movement became possible because of the common rediscovery of the <u>nature</u> of the Church. An important aspect of the present theological situation is the common rediscovery of the <u>functions</u> of the Church.

b) The important results of the discussion concerning Apostolate (Missionary Calling), Diakonia (Ministry, Service) and Koinonia (Fellowship, Communion) need to be translated in terms which the rank and file of church members can understand.

c) In many aspects of our own work we are on the way toward restating specific aspects of the mission of the Church. This is especially true with regard to the work with the Laity, Cooperation of Men and Women, Youth (relating youth to the Church) and Inter-Church Aid (relation I.C.A. and Missions).

d) The issue of "integration" needs to be seen and interpreted in this theological context. The only basic reason for "integration" is theological and spiritual. The Apostolate of the Church is its primary function.

e) This concern with the function of the Church must not lead to an introverted ecclesiasticism. It must therefore be made clear that our interest is not in the Church by itself, but in the Church as living in and through the Power of the Holy Spirit and as witnessing and ministering to a world full of unbelief and suffering.

4. <u>With regard to the life of the World Council itself</u>

In addition to points already mentioned:

a) Whether or not the discussion concerning integration leads to concrete results in this year and the next, integration together with its implications will be the dominating concrete issue in the Assembly.

b) This will imply a reconsideration of our present divisional structure.

c) Developments in Asia (Prapat Conference) as also the results of the study on Rapid Social Change will also oblige us to re-think old patterns of inter-church relationships.

Do we need a Theme?

It is not self-evident that the Assembly should have a theme. It is conceivable that we should sometimes hold working Assemblies without a specific theme. But in view of the relative youth of the Council, and the need for a rallying point, in view especially of the specific issues mentioned above, it would seem that this time we will once again need a theme. We need wide spiritual participation of the parishes and congregations. This will only be possible if we give them a focussing point.

That is not to say that the theme needs to be handled as the Evanston theme was handled. It is not suggested that there should be another Advisory Commission on the Theme of the Assembly or that so much time should be spent in groups discussing the theme, but that it should be more pervasive.

The nature of the Theme

Until there has been further consideration of the function of the Assembly it is not desirable to suggest a formulated theme. If the approach in this paper is right, it would seem that the theme must be concerned with the total mission of the Church as inspired by the life-giving Spirit and as witnessing and ministering to the world. The actual formulation will have to be in terms which are specially, though not exclusively, relevant to the Asian situation. At Yale we should only do what was done at Toronto before the Second Assembly in indicating the general nature of the theme.

Preparation

A special attempt should be made to get the Churches to participate in the preparation of the Assembly, so that the Assembly may not only speak to the Churches, but speak for the Churches. Before Evanston there was good theological preparation, but not widespread participation in the preparation. This time we should think of study-outlines, etc. which would give the Assembly a much broader base in the life of the member Churches.

* * * *

In the discussion, Bishop Barbieri underlined the importance of section 3e. of the memorandum. The churches were expecting the W.C.C. to take more action for evangelism and mission. Dr.Payne asked what was being done in the next few months to consult Asian leaders. The argument that the Assembly was a "Western cultural thrust" could be met in advance by involving the Asian Churches themselves in deciding what should be done and how.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft supported by Mr.Marantika replied that this question would be raised with Asian leaders at the Prapat Conference and that Dr.Bilheimer would take it up with other Asian church leaders.

Dr.Bliss was glad that the fact of meeting in Asia was being taken seriously from the start, especially as it would be difficult

for a small Assembly meeting in Asia to have much impact on the ordinary member of a local church in the West. Nehru had stated that the economic and social changes in Asia had been well understood in the West, but the revolution in the hearts and spirits of men in Asia had been obscured in Western minds. By interpreting the great change in Asian ethos since the war, the Assembly might make a great new contribution to human understanding. There was a danger in dividing up the Christian 'way of life' into diakonia, etc. Asian Christians had a way of telling us how to hold all three together in life. The Assembly in Asia might help to break through Western over-sophistication and lead to the simple springs of Christian life and a new vitality.

Dr.Fry said that an Assembly theme related to integration should be developed from the beginning in direct consultation with the I.M.C. A bad impression would be given if the W.C.C. started on its own. There were real misgivings about an Assembly which might be dealing with integration being held in Asia where there was most danger of the classic missionary enterprise being regarded as spiritual colonialism. The theme should be related to the main business of the Assembly and therefore it should arise from the new thoughts of mission evolving at Prapat and in the Mission Boards. Dr.Blake suggested that there should be immediate unofficial consultation with the I.M.C. and with at least three National Christian Councils in Asia along these lines so that the theme might really arise from the churches in the part of the world where the Assembly would meet.

Dr.Goodall shared Dr.Fry's and Dr.Visser 't Hooft's view that whatever happened to integration with the I.M.C., the keynote of the Assembly should be Mission. The World Council must explicitly identify itself with the world mission of the Church even if there were to be no organisational integration with the I.M.C. He disagreed with Dr.Fry's fear that integration might identify the W.C.C. with mission "in a colonial sense". He thought that an early gesture towards the I.M.C. was desirable. He doubted whether a joint planning body would be needed. Opportunities for discussion at Prapat and elsewhere should be exploited to the full.

Sir Kenneth Grubb spoke of the ministry of reconciliation committed to the Churches in the modern world. Hence the importance of points 2a and 3 in the memorandum. Every Assembly, even at the expense of repetition, must deal directly with the disagreements which keep the Churches apart. The theological statements should come back to fundamentals. At an Assembly which might deal with "integration" an extraordinary effort should be made to interest brethren of conservative theological positions especially since these are the groups in the West which are sending out proportionately the greatest number of missionaries. They must deal also with the acute divisions between peoples and nations arising from colonialism, racialism, competing claims on the world's resources, and growing populations. At the parish level it was important for the Churches to see the need to reorganise themselves and also for the World Council to have enough funds to do a good propaganda job. The logic of these considerations would not be an Assembly divided into six main sections but into a number of smaller groups each dealing with specific causes of division in the Churches and in the world, and with ways to reach a common mind.

Metropolitan James of Philadelphia felt that it would be dangerous if the older churches interpreted "integaration" as meaning that the World Council took on a missionary character which would exclude the Orthodox and lead to misunderstandings.

Professor Hromadka agreed with Dr.Bliss that this Assembly should be a tremendous opportunity for Christians in the West, including those from behind the iron curtain, to hear what Asian Christians had to say not only about problems of the relations of Church and Mission but more deeply, about the heart of the Gospel. The Faith and Order Conference at Lund had profitably turned our thoughts from ecclesiology to Christ. At Evanston on the other hand all had the impression that the work of the sections was insufficiently integrated with the main theological theme. The Third Assembly should not primarily give attention to social and international themes, but should be an opportunity for Asian and African friends to speak about the heart of the Gospel. He emphasised the importance of having a main theme for the Assembly especially if the Churches were to prepare for the Assembly properly.

The Bishop of Chichester thought that the wording of clause 2a needed modification; for example in the light of the fact that for the first time the Archbishop of Canterbury was suggesting to the Metropolitans that they should discuss the ecumenical movement as such at the Lambeth Conference - and the Anglican Communion was engaged in discussion of relationships with many Churches in India, Great Britain and elsewhere. The situation was more hopeful than in 1948.

After further discussion it was agreed

- to refer the memorandum back to the General Secretary for use in further consultations at Prapat and elsewhere before it was redrafted for the consideration of the Central Committee at Yale. It was noted that at this stage the memorandum was not a public document.

As a footnote to the discussion Dean Pope drew attention to the fact that in America "integration" is a word which relates to relations between races. He suggested that "merger" would be a more suitable word for the proposed action on W.C.C./ I.M.C. relationships.

15. Theme of the Central Committee meeting at Yale 1957

As the Central Committee would have on its agenda both the question of "integration" with the I.M.C. and the theme for the Assembly, Dr. Visser 't Hooft suggested that there should only be one additional theme this year and that this should be "Witness and Service". A better wording was needed, but there was a strong feeling that the discussions at Galyatetö on the report of the Joint Committee had been disappointing, and that such a theme would help to take the discussion of I.M.C./ W.C.C. relationships to a deeper level.

Dean Pope suggested as an alternative "Unity and Freedom of the Church in the World". This would be most relevant to the contemporary situation. It would be less ecclesiastical. At the same time it would provide an opportunity to show that the W.C.C. was not moving towards the imposition of an authoritarian Church as many believed.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft said that there was urgent need for discussion in the churches between those who were interested only in the 'service' aspect and those interested only in the evangelistic aspect. There was need for pioneer thinking on a biblical level about the relation of these parts of the ecumenical movement. Dr.Fry pointed out that Dean Pope's theme came close to that of the L.W.F. theme at Minneapolis.

Dr.Niemöller said that Dr.Visser 't Hooft's suggestion was related not only to the organisational problems of the I.M.C. but also to real problems in the life of the Churches which were often broken asunder by differences of understanding of the relationships of their different functions.

Dean Pope thought that there would be more popular interest in the 'freedom theme' especially in its relation to racial issues. Dr.Fry recalled that the discussion of Dr.Oscar Lee's report would in any case give the press material on the racial question.

After further discussion Dean Pope withdrew his proposal and it was agreed

> that the Executive recommend the Officers to prepare for a discussion at the Central Committee of the theme outlined by Dr.Visser 't Hooft, with the rider that an alternative formulation should be sought for.

(Note: The Officers approved the following formulation : " The Church's calling to witness and to serve".)

16. Practical arrangements for the Central Committee meeting at Yale

Dean Pope described in detail the setting and proposed arrangements for the meeting. After discussion the following decisions were agreed :

(i) That there should be an ecumenical service arranged in cooperation with the New Haven Council of Churches at 4.30 or 5.0 p.m. on Sunday, August 4.

(ii) That one evening during the Committee should be reserved for a big public representation of some aspects of the work of the World Council.

(iii) That a sub-committee should be set up to assist members of the Committee in matters concerning participation in radio and television programmes, but that decision about appearing in programmes should be left as at Evanston to individuals.

(iv) That Dr.Cavert should send a simple notice to Churches not otherwise represented calling their attention to the rule under which they were entitled to send representatives.

(v) That Dr.Cavert, in consultation with the General Secretary, should be entitled to invite 20 to 30 other North American church leaders to attend as observers.

(vi) That arrangements for the Press should be made by Mr. Parlin, the General Secretary, the Director of the Information Department and the W.C.C. New York Office on the general understanding that the meeting would be given the maximum possible publicity provided that the work of the Committee was not embarrassed thereby. (E.g. a proposal for relaying the proceedings to a large press-room would be approved but closed-circuit television would not). It was understood that all sessions of the Committee would be open to the press except for the usual small proportion of executive sessions.

Other points noted were:

i) Preaching engagements on Sunday August 4th could be accepted for the morning provided that preachers could be back in the afternoon for the ecumenical service and evening session of the Committee.

ii) From July 15 to August 7th there would be daily morning services in the Divinity School Chapel, which would be arranged as usual by Dr.Harms.

iii) Evening Prayers would be held in each Committee - including the Central Committee.

iv) The New Haven Council of Churches should be asked whether or not they would like members of the Central Committee to bring robes. It was suggested that if members brought their hoods, gowns could easily be provided in New Haven.

v) Dr.Blake invited members of the Executive Committee to lunch at the Woodway Country Club on Tuesday July 30th on their way from Seabury House back to Yale.

Finally the Chairman expressed the deep gratitude of the Committee to Dean Pope for the excellent plans that were being made for the reception at Yale Divinity School of the World Council's Committees.

17. Report of the Secretary of the Joint Committee of the I.M.C. and W.C.C. on discussions on 'integration'.

Dr.Goodall said that there would be a meeting in April of the group set up to formulate plans for possible integration. This would be discussed by the Joint Committee in July, by the Executive Committee at Seabury House, and by the Central Committee in August. In summary, opinion in the Churches so far reported was favourable, but hesitancy or resistance came mainly from Missions. There was genuine concern in the Churches lest these hesitations should imperil the local unity of the missions. This unity was threatened by theological, ecclesiastical, psychological, sociological forces and unclassifiable fears. In the Nordic countries which he had been visiting there were historical reasons for the profound suspicion of the missions for the Churches. Though the missions in these countries had made no move into ecclesiastical separation they were in fact in a state of spiritual separatism. In Scandinavia the word 'ecumenical' had suffered a sad deterioration and was now equated with 'liberalism - modernism - syncretism'. The activities of McIntyre had contributed

to this misunderstanding. It was a very disturbing fact that the W.C.C. was so little known to pastors and people in the Scandinavian Churches and so gravely misunderstood.

In reply to questions from Dr.Payne, Dr.Visser 't Hooft said he did not think that a popular direct reply to McIntyre would be wise, but he agreed that a popular indirect reply - perhaps in the form of a new version of "Ten questions and answers about the W.C.C." was badly needed.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft said that he had the impression that owing to the difficulties referred to by Dr.Goodall it would be imprudent to propose any plan for "integration" in which "Mission" would no longer have a clear identity. Dr.Eugene Smith thought it was misleading to conceive "integration" as the end of a process: it was rather a stage in a continuing process of closer and closer association. Budgetary reasons alone would demand a degree of separatedness for some time to come. It was also essential to continue to hold in association members of the I.M.C.largely or partly related to churches which were not member Churches of the W.C.C.

On the suggestion of Dr.Fry, Dr.Goodall agreed to take up with the General Secretary of the I.M.C. the question whether the W.C.C. should be represented at the I.M.C. Assembly by Committee members as well as by staff.

In the course of further discussion, Dr.Goodall indicated that the I.M.C.leaders had not finally decided whether they would give a positive lead to the Assembly on the subject of integration, or whether they would only state objectively that the plan that would be worked out had commanded itself to them as the best plan for integrating if integration was desired - while leaving the main question open.

18. Meeting of representatives of Asian Churches at Prapat

Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported that in spite of political difficulties in Indonesia, the East Asian Secretary of the W.C.C. and Mr.Marantika were convinced that the Conference could be held in March in Sumatra as planned. The air service from Singapore to Medan had just been restored. The subject of the Conference was the future ecumenical structure in Asia - the ways in which the Councils and Churches would cooperate with one another and with the W.C.C. Attendance would be very good, though the problems of China and Korea were still unsolved. The W.C.C. would be represented by two Asian churchmen, the General Secretary and two Associate General Secretaries. The relation of the East Asia Council for Ecumenical Mission to the Conference was still uncertain.

Mr.Marantika said that most Asian Churches were very concerned about the ecumenical relations of the Churches in post-Bandung Asia. They desired to have a positive voice on ecumenical relations with non-Asian Churches and a place where they could talk to one another. After the full Conference there would probably be a meeting of the Asian representatives by themselves.

Dr.Fry stated that it was the intention of the W.C.C. to see that the Asian Churches had a full voice in the Ecumenical Movement.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft said that decision on the appointment of an East Asian Secretary would be made in the light of the Conference. Mr.Kyaw Than's appointment only ran until Summer 1957.

19. Report of the Bossey Consultation on the Christian attitude to the people of Israel

Dr.Goodall presented the report of this Consultation. There had been extraordinary difficulties in getting participants together, and no direct representation from the Arab States and Israel had been possible. The Report was formally addressed to the Joint Committee. The Report called for action by the W.C.C. The I.M.C. was content to leave responsibility for I.M.C.-action to its Committee on the Christian approach to the Jews. The Consultation felt strongly the need of a W.C.C. statement as a result of the Evanston episode and the intrinsic importance of the matter. The Report had been circulated confidentially and many had expressed surprise that so much agreement had been found between people of such diverse views. The Committee was asked:i) Should the W.C.C. make a statement? ii) Would the draft be any help? iii) What about the timing of such a statement in view of the situation in the Middle East?

Dr.Nolde said that the critical situation in the Middle East must affect both the timing and phraseology of any statement on this subject. Dr.Fry feared that the Central Committee meeting in the United States might be the least suitable setting for the discussion of such a text. Dr.Hromadka said that the W.C.C. must take responsibility for continuing the study, but it must be remembered that the Jewish people were exceptionally sensitive today to anything which might be interpreted as being action against them. Dr.Visser 't Hooft reminded the Committee that the Assembly had clearly directed that the study should be continued.

Dean Pope said he had very serious reservations about the Report. From his point of view all those who attended the Bossey consultation were 'biblical literalists' in their interpretation of this subject. Secondly, the sociological assumptions of the Report were unsound e.g. in the frequent references to the Jews as a 'race'. In view of such questions about the value of the document, of the political implications which would be read out of it, and the hypersensitivity of the Jews who interpreted references to evangelism as a form of anti-semitism, he thought that the Report should not be widely circulated by the W.C.C.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft thought that the Bossey Consultation had been valuable and in normal circumstances the Report should go to the Central Committee. But this would not be a wise decision because the subject was at this moment political dynamite and represented a divisive issue in the U.S.A. Even though Dr.Goodall had tried to get together a representative group, a large section of the Ecumenical Movement would not be behind the conclusions of the Report. It should therefore be referred to the Study Division as a piece of initial study. The Executive Committee should not "receive" the Report but it should be used for the purpose of furthering discussion.

Dr.Goodall said that further study and an enlarged conference would eventually be needed; but where would the finance

for further study and for such a conference come from ? Dr.Bilheimer replied that an initial stage might be an inexpensive consultation by mail after which it might be possible to define issues and to see what further conferences were needed and under what auspices. Dr.Fry indicated that he thought that reports on the results of these investigations should be made not to the Joint Committee but to the W.C.C. Executive.

A long discussion followed on the question whether and in what form the Report of the Bossey Consultation should be published. It was reported that several groups were pressing strongly for publication, ant that there would be a strong reaction against any action which might be interpreted as suppression of the Report by the W.C.C. On the other hand doubts had been expressed about the value of the Report and, however it was published, it would be regarded in many quarters as representing the considered views of the World Council. Finally it was agreed

i) to refer the Report to the Study Division and to ask the Division to prepare a plan for further study which would be considered in the first instance by the Committee of the Study Division at its meeting in July.

ii) to publish the text of the Report in the next number of the Ecumenical Review, prefaced with a note recalling the Evanston discussion and decision to promote further discussions of the subject, a brief account of the Bossey Consultation, an indication that this Consultation was only an incident in a process of study and discussion which was to continue, and an invitation to send comments to the Study Division.

iii) It was noted that if publication evoked sharply critical articles of high quality, some of these might be published in subsequent issues of the Ecumenical Review.

iv) Dr.Goodall would edit out of the Report all references to a possible statement by the W.C.C. on this subject, as at this stage such references were liable to be misleading.

20. Applications for membership of the World Council

The General Secretary reported that applications for membership with full supporting papers had been received from

The Burma Baptist Convention and
The Presbyterian Church of East Africa.

It was agreed

that the Central Committee should be asked to accept these applications.

An application had also been received from the Evangelical Church of Latvia. After discussion it was agreed

that this application should be brought to theCentral Committee without any recommendation that the Central Committee should accept it.

The General Secretary reported an application from the Full-Gospel Church of God in South Africa. This Church was related to an American Pentecostal denomination which had 144,000 members. The application was under study.

The General Secretary also reported that the decision taken by the Executive at Vienna to wait until some representative of the World Council had been able to visit Poland before admitting the National Council of Polish Churches as an associated council had caused great distress to some Polish church leaders.

After discussion it was agreed

that Dr.Niemöller and Dr.Payne who would be visiting Poland shortly should be asked to report on the situation. If their reports were positive it was agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that this Council should be accepted as an Associated Council.

The General Secretary reported that applications for membership were expected shortly from Churches in Togo and the Cameroons. Dr.Blake stressed the need for care in dealing with the Cameroons in view of the position of a church there related to the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

21. Report of the Division of Studies

Dr.Bilheimer presented the Report of the Division of Studies, explaining that it was not a comprehensive report of all the work of the Division, but rather a report of developments which have taken place in regard to a number of studies since the Hungary meeting of the Central Committee.

1) "Christians and the Prevention of War in an Atomic Age - A Theological Discussion"

Following the report of progress given to the Central Committee concerning the organization of this commission, the commission itself held its first meeting under the chairmanship of Sir Thomas Taylor, from September 16th to 20th at the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey. The following persons were in attendance: The Bishop of Exeter, Dr.Günter Howe, Prof. George Kelsey, Professor Mario Rollier, Professor N.H.Söe, Professor Douglas Steere and Professor C.F.von Weizsäcker. The commission met mindful of the very great difficulty of its task and with assurances that it was under no compulsion to produce a statement at its first meeting. Each member of the commission had been asked to prepare a two or three page paper dealing with the total problem before the commission as he viewed it. Out of these papers certain broad issues arose which the commission discussed in more detail during its meeting. An extensive précis of the discussion was prepared. In addition, a summary proposal for the future work of the commission was drawn up and has since been accepted by the commission. This document will afford a view of the way in which the commission is setting about its work.

2) "The Lordship of Christ over the World and the Church"

During the autumn months, the commission to pursue this biblical study, authorized by the Central Committee, has been formed and consists of the following members: Dr.Bernhard Anderson, Prof. James Barr, Prof.Nils A.Dahl, Dr.Walter Freytag (ex officio), Prof. Reginald H.Fuller, Dean Walter Harrelson, Metropolitan James of Melita, Prof.Wilfried Joest, Prof.H.J.Kraus, Prof.Roger Mehl, Prof. Jean Meyendorff, Prof.Paul Minear, Prof.Barnabas Nagy, Canon Alan Richardson, Prof.A.A.van Ruler, Prof.Eduard Schweitzer, Prof.H.D. Wendland, Rev.Principal W.A.Whitehouse, Prof.Gustav Wingren, Prof. J.N.Thomas.

It will be noted that as of the moment no representatives from the Younger Churches appear on this list. Extensive consultation by the Chairman of the Division, Dr.Freytag, who is now in Asia, and by Dr.Bilheimer, who will be in Asia for the next three months, is intended to help provide new younger church names for service on the commission. Two meetings are planned, one to be held in Europe (at the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey) in April and the other in the United States (at Yale) in July. Three or four people will be in attendance at both meetings. The substance of the discussion will be formed by the questions developed at the Arnoldshain consultation and reported to the Central Committee.

3) "Our Common Christian Responsibility toward Areas of Rapid Social Change"

This large enterprise has undergone considerable development since the consultation at Herrenalb and the meeting of the Central Committee. Rather than provide the Executive Committee with a comprehensive account of these we desire to call the attention of the Executive Committee to two particular matters. The first refers to the work of the study in Africa. It is felt that because this represents virtually the first substantial venture of the World Council in the African scene it is wise to give a full report to the Executive Committee concerning the study as it has developed there. The second matter for report concerns the development of the study as a whole for the next two years.

In regard to Africa we are glad to report the receipt of a gift from the Phelps-Stokes Fund of the United States in a total amount of $ 35,000 for the development of the study in Africa. This gift has been made to the Division of Studies as the result of an initiative of the Phelps-Stokes Fund for the purpose of two intensive studies as indicated below. These studies are administered by the Division of Studies' Department on Church and Society under principles agreed with the Phelps-Stokes Fund and within the context of the total study on Rapid Social Change. Funds are administered by the Division of Studies on a budget agreed with the Phelps-Stokes Fund. This money, together with some $ 20,000 allocated in the general Rapid Social Change budget for work in Africa, provides the finances for the study in Africa as of the present date.

Five studies are now being arranged, or are already under way, as follows :

i) The Gold Coast (after March 7 to be known as Ghana)

We have been fortunate in securing the services of Dr.K.A. Busia of the University College of the Gold Coast for the conduct of a study under the auspices of the National Christian Council of the Gold Coast. Professor Busia plans to carry on his inquiries in three distinctive centres, dealing with different emphases within the major categories of the Rapid Social Change study. He will have associated with him three assistants working full-time for one year.

ii) The Union of South Africa

We have been pleased to learn of the formation of a Committee composed of Afrikaan, English-speaking and Bantu church representatives for the express purpose of undertaking a Rapid Social Change study in the Union of South Africa. It is planned that this Committee will have staff attached to it and funds have been requested from the World Council. These have been granted. We unfortunately do not have much information concerning progress of the Committee as of the present date. We are assured, however, that the study is proceeding within the framework and subject matter of the total Rapid Social Change study.

iii) Northern Rhodesia

This is one of the studies which is financed largely by the money of the Phelps-Stokes Fund. It is just now in process of being organized with a visit to Northern Rhodesia by Mr.Abrecht to take place within the next six weeks. The study will be under the auspices and guidance of the National Christian Council of Northern Rhodesia. Particular emphases for the content of the study will have to be discussed during the next weeks.

iv) Liberia

This is the second area in which study is being financed by the Phelps-Stokes Fund. In addition, we enjoy the cooperation of the Fund in personnel and in regard to the substance of the study in a very helpful and substantial way. The present plans call for visitation this spring and substantial work next autumn. Particular emphases of content still need to be discussed, but are in the process of being determined.

v) The Cameroons

A fifth study is being initiated in the Cameroons. We have benefited from cooperation with the Paris Mission Society in the current initial stages of the enquiry. Mr.Thomas Ekollo, a layman connected with the Paris Mission Society, is now in the Cameroons, after an initial period in Geneva, to map out the lines the study is to take, and to enlist the participation of representative people in it. Mr.Abrecht is to visit the Cameroons on his forthcoming trip.

In addition to the staff engaged or being sought for these relatively intensive studies, we have been fortunate in securing the services of Dr.John Karefa-Smart on a full-time basis for an eighteen month period beginning last summer. His work is to help provide coordination and stimulation among the various studies being undertaken north of the Union and south of the Sahara, to carry on work within his own country of Sierra Leone, and to act as liaison between the work in Africa and the Department on Church and Society.

A final point is that the Division has been closely in touch with the International Missionary Council in regard to plans for an All-Africa Conference in January 1958, with every hope that in some acceptable form the concern of the Rapid Social Change study will be considered at that conference and with the expectation also that people from Africa who have been involved in the Rapid Social Change study may be in attendance there.

A second major point of report to the Executive concerning the Rapid Social Change study has to do with the general stage of its development. Up until this point, and indeed for yet another month or two, we have been strenuously involved in organizing study processes in the various countries. This effort has proceeded in an encouraging way in Asia and in Africa and in Latin America as well as in a number of countries of the West, including the United States, Great Britain, France, Holland and Germany. The result is that we find ourselves now virtually at the end of the process of organizing the study and, at the completion of Dr. de Vries' prospective trip to Japan next July, will be at the end of that process. It is therefore necessary for the staff and officers of the Division of Studies and of the Department on Church and Society to turn to the problem of how to bring the study to a focus and to the related problem of the follow-up of the study. It is quite clear that the study is moving at different rates of speed in different countries. There is no uniform pattern of development. It is also clear that for certain programatic and financial reasons we will need to bring the study to some kind of reportable focus in 1958 and 1959. It is not possible at this moment to report to the Executive Committee the precise ways in which it is planned to do this. A meeting of officers, of working committee members in Europe, and of consultants, in May, will give substantial time to this problem; a similar type of meeting in the United States in July will develop a plan for presentation to the Division and to the Central Committee next summer.

In the meantime there is every expectation that the work of the study will proceed beyond the dates of 1958 and 1959 in the various countries. The role of the Division of Studies in this further work needs to be considered carefully, as does the question of how completed studies may be appropriately and adequately followed-up. Again, no detailed report can be presented at this time, but we do wish to report that the officers are giving attention to this problem of the more distant future.

4) Department on Evangelism

The Executive Committee will have before it, through the report of its staffing committee, a communication from the Working Committee of the Department on Evangelism concerning staff. This communication was the result of considerable discussion in the meeting of the Working Committee last summer and deals with the very great handicap under which this Department labours in having only a part-time Secretary. Although we are very fortunate in having D.T.Niles as the part-time Secretary of the Department, we nevertheless feel at virtually every turn the need for a full-time person. The Division has no concrete recommendation to put before the Executive Committee at this time but wishes to record here its full sense of sympathy with the situation in which the Working Committee of the Department on Evangelism finds itself as a result.

5) Department of Missionary Studies

The first item of report concerns the expansion of the study on the Life and Growth of the Younger Churches and the completion of one of these studies. Steps are being taken to set in motion case studies, or as they are called by the Department, "situation studies" in India. A new study is definitely planned for Northern Rhodesia, financed by a special grant from the Phelps-Stokes Fund, to be developed parallel to the Rapid Social Change study there. This collaboration is of particular interest for the complementary nature of these two studies will provide a more comprehensive enquiry than we have elsewhere been able to have. It is hoped also that "situation studies" may be developed in other parts of Africa as well. In the meantime the study which was in process last year in Uganda has been completed and the volume resulting is now virtually ready for publication. A preview of the volume indicates that it will contain a fascinating account "from the inside" of the life and the growth of a younger church in its encounter with its environment and that many important issues will as a result be brought into clearer view for that church as well as for others to consider in their present situation.

The second item of report concerns the study on "The Word of God and the Living Faiths of Men". We are very glad to record here the fact that the Disciples of Christ, U.S.A., have generously provided a full-time staff member for this study of the encounter of Christianity with the non-Christian religions. Mr.Harry B.Partin has taken up his work under the direction of Mr.Erik Nielsen, with headquarters in London. In the meantime, consultations have been held looking to the development of a committee to guide this study. It should be noted that this study is jointly undertaken by the Departments of Evangelism and Missionary Studies. The most important event in prospect concerning this study is a consultation to be held at Madras in the beginning of April which will bring together the directors of the newly-established centres of research (initiated by the International Missionary Council) dealing with the different non-Christian religions, and officers of the Division of Studies and Departments of Missionary Studies and Evangelism. It is expected that this consultation will be of material assistence in developing the lines of study as well as the methods to be pursued in this inquiry. It is hoped that a meeting of the Advisory Committee may take place in May or in June, 1957.

6) Department on Faith and Order

It is with very great regret that we report the resignation of the Executive Secretary of the Department on Faith and Order, Dr.J.Robert Nelson, effective September 1st, 1957. Dr.Nelson leaves in order to undertake new work as Dean of the Divinity School of Vanderbilt University. The Executive Committee will want to join the Division of Studies and the Commission on Faith and Order in expressing appreciation to Dr.Nelson and regret at seeing him leave this post.

Through the staffing committee, the Executive Committee will consider the question of Dr.Nelson's successor. The staffing committee will also have a recommendation concerning an Editorial Assistant in the Department.

One major change of leadership in Faith and Order studies has recently taken place. The Rt.Rev.Kenneth Riches, Bishop of Lincoln, succeeds the Archbishop of York, Dr.Ramsey, as Chairman of the European Theological Commission on Worship. Bishop Riches was heretofore Vice-Chairman of the European Theological Commission on Christ and the Church.

It should be reported here, for any comment that the Executive Committee desires to make, that the Chairman of the Faith and Order Working Committee, the General Secretary, the staff of the Division and of the Department on Faith and Order have discussed with one another the desirability of asking the Commission on Faith and Order at its meeting next summer at Yale to establish a sub-committee in order to give careful attention to ways in which we can more adequately fulfil the function of Faith and Order "to proclaim the essential oneness of the Church of Christ and keep prominently before the World Council and the Churches the obligation to manifest that unity in its urgency for the work of evangelism". It is probably true that this first article of the Constitution of Faith and Order, inserted at Lund, has never been thoroughly examined in itself in order to see its meaning for the work and programme of Faith and Order. It is felt that the period between the meeting of the Faith and Order Commission next summer and the Third Assembly provides an appropriate time in which to take this matter up in substantial form. No specific terms of reference beyond this general one have been suggested and the comments of the Executive Committee would be most welcome.

7) Request of the Central Committee regarding a Study on Population Pressures

The Division wishes to report only that this matter is in mind and that a report will be ready for the Central Committee at the July meeting.

* * * *

In discussion of the above items of the Report, the following points were made:

Dr.Payne, in reference to the suggestion concerning Faith and Order (item 6 above) expressed the hope that the examination of the first item in the Faith and Order Constitution would also permit some examination of other functions of the Faith and Order Commission.

Dr.Fry asked how the interests of the Rapid Social Change study might be considered in the forthcoming All-Africa Conference. Mr.Abrecht replied that at the present moment it was being suggested that a limited number of smaller conferences be held prior to the All-Africa Conference so that this meeting might consider the results of the earlier ones. One of other prior conferences would deal with Rapid Social Change.

Dean Pope asked how the Rapid Social Change study would be reported. Dr.Bilheimer reported staff suggestions for various means by which the study/reported and stated that more definite plans would be brought before the Executive and Central Committee next summer.

/ could be

Professor Hromadka asked whether it were possible to initiate the Rapid Social Change study in China and Dr.Bilheimer

stated that conversations with Bishop Ting last summer had revealed that this would probably not be possible.

After this discussion, it was agreed

to receive the Report of the Division of Studies.

On the request of Dr.Bilheimer, it was agreed

to authorize the General Secretary to make arrangements with Dr. de Vries for a visit to South Africa and for help in preparing the reports of the Rapid Social Change study, renumeration for this service to be decided by the General Secretary and drawn from the Rapid Social Change budget.

Dr.Bilheimer then presented a Proposal for a Study Programme on Theological Education and the Training of the Ministry as follows:

1. General Background

In recent years there has been a number of studies concerning theological education and the training of the ministry. *) This is not the place to present an exhaustive list of them, but reference to the work of the International Missionary Council in Africa and Madagascar especially, to studies in India, Southeast Asia, the United States, Great Britain and Germany, will indicate that there has been - and continues to be - a widespread concern for this matter which has already resulted in intensive work on the subject. Many of those engaged in these studies, particularly the national ones, have expressed the need for exchange of ideas and information with others who are involved in the same problem.

Prior to 1954, the Study Department of the World Council of Churches conducted inquiries into the subject of the meaning of the ecumenical movement for theological education, and the subject of ecumenics in the theological curriculum. For want of adequate staff and resources, however, this was not a widespread inquiry and was never brought to final fruition.

More substantial work was done by the World's Student Christian Federation, which carried on intensive discussions among students and faculty concerning the task of theological education in the contemporary world. This work resulted in the book "Theological Training in the Modern World" by Keith R.Bridston.

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*) The use of the terms "theological education" and "training of the ministry" in close relation to each other, if not as synonymous phrases, should not be taken as an intent to circumscribe the term "theological education" in general. It is clearly recognized that a vast area of work awaits attention, namely the development of theological education, or education in all matters of theological import, of the total membership of the churches. This problem falls outside the scope of this study, and therefore makes this footnote on terminology the more important.

In 1954 the Evanston Assembly, upon recommendation of the Study Department Committee, recommended that the new Division of Studies undertake a long range inquiry regarding the training of the ministry.

In 1956, a consultation on theological education and the training of the ministry, held jointly by the Division of Studies and the World's Student Christian Federation, recommended that a substantial programme of study be inaugurated jointly by the two agencies. The Committee of the Division of Studies heard the proposal and asked that plans be made at the earliest moment feasible. The General Committee of the World's Student Christian Federation took similar favorable action.

2. The Present Proposal

It is proposed that the Division of Studies of the World Council of Churches and the World's Student Christian Federation jointly undertake a study for a five year period on Theological Education and the Training of the Ministry.

A. Issues to be Examined

It is proposed that the following four areas of inquiry should form the basis of the study:

(1) What is the true goal, purpose, and function of theological education, and how is theological education, thus conceived, related to the Church and its mission in the world?

This should be both a normative and descriptive part of the study. As a discussion of norms, it will need to enquire as to the way in which theological education should serve the Church and its mission; the terms in which the relationship between theological education, the Church and its mission, should be conceived; and the degrees and ways in which theological education should be responsive to the state and condition of the Church and the world in which it is set. Under this latter question, various specific issues will appear, e.g. the adequacy of present theological training for the needs of the Church, the use of a non-professional ministry and the problem of training for it, specialised training to meet immediate needs, and others.

It is recognised that this normative discussion must take place not only in terms of general principles but must be closely related to the specific needs of different geographical and cultural areas of the world.

As a descriptive study, this part of the enquiry should gather facts concerning the current theory and practice of the churches, and theological faculties and schools on the above points.

(2) The study should be concerned with various concepts of the function of the ministry, as these appear in different countries and churches. These concepts should be described and their relative validity should be studied. In addition, consideration should be given as to whether a common concept of the function of the ministry should be developed.

(3) Of what basic elements should theological education consist, and what is the proper relationship between them? Is it true to ay, specifically, that theological education must involve a theological discipline in the intellectual sense of that phrase, a spiritual training, and a practical training for some specialized aspects of the ministry? Is it true to say that the key to the relation between theological education, the Church, and its mission, lies in the relationship of the parts of this 'triangle' to each other? If there is validity in this triangle - or some other description of the essential elements pf theological education - how are the parts to be related to each other in the curriculum, in the community life, and in the general atmosphere and practice of the theological school ?

(4) The relation of the ecumenical movement to theological education should be examined. In particular, the question should be studied as to whether "ecumenics" is a specific discipline within the theological curriculum, or is a general perspective which should provide orientation for all subjects on the curriculum, or both.

B. Method of the Study

The basic method of the study will be to stimulate discussion of the issues of the study among those qualified and interested in various national and ecclesiastical situations. A secondary method will be research by the secretary and persons co-opted for the purpose. In the first instance, therefore, the study is designed as a process of organized discussion around broadly stated issues. This process, together with the research done in connection with it, is designed also to produce written material in the form of background articles and more comprehensive reports. To produce this "organized discussion", the study will need to employ the means of conferences of varying size, exchange of written material, and travel of the secretary and a limited number of specially selected persons. Members of theological faculties, students, church leaders and interested laymen should be brought into the discussion. Careful liaison should be maintained with the work of other departments in the W.C.C. and with other work of the World's Student Christian Federation. The study should result in a definite report or series of reports to be issued perhaps in connection with a concluding international conference.

C. The Organization of the Study

1. The study should be directed by a committee of fifteen members, the membership of which is to be approved by the Committee of the Division of Studies of the W.C.C. and the Executive Committee of the World's Student Christian Federation. This Committee is to be responsible to both bodies and to report to both regularly.

2. A full-time executive secretary is to be employed for this study, to be employed by the W.C.C. with the approval of the W.S.C.F. His budget is to be approved by the committee which supervises the study, and by the W.C.C. and the W.S.C.F., according to the established procedures of each agency.

* * * *

In discussion, questions were raised by Mrs.Bliss and others concerning the title of the study, especially the terms in the title

"theological education" and "training of the ministry", and concerning the use of these terms in the proposal. It was agreed that these points should be taken care of by editing in consultation with Mrs. Bliss. (Note: The above statement of the proposal contains the added point and is complete).

After this discussion, it was agreed

to approve the proposal to conduct jointly with the World's Student Christian Federation a study on "Theological Education and the Training of the Ministry", for a five year period, as outlined in the above proposal, on the understanding that funds to finance the entire study are to be in hand before the study is set in motion or the Secretary is engaged; and to authorize the Division of Studies to conduct the study on behalf of the W.C.C.

22. Report of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees

In presenting his report (Appendix I), Dr.Cooke reminded the Committee that the range of the Division's programme prevented the presentation of a whole picture of its activities, and the report must necessarily be selective.

Of special mention are: the return of Pastor Dumartheray from his successful Mission of Fellowship, the increase in scholarship students from the D.D.R. and outside Europe, the ecumenical prize essay, concern for Orthodox churches and countries, the vast quantities of material relief shipped by the churches , the efforts of minority groups in Europe, the newly formed joint committee of German churchmen and W.C.C., and the year's donations to ECLOF of $ 85,000.

Dr.Cooke then spoke of three particular concerns that particularly affected the work of the Division. First is the completion of arrangements resulting in the establishment of a new Advisory Committee in the U.S.A. The Executive Committee of Church World Service has been enlarged to include adequate mission representation and will be the Advisory Committee of the U.S.Conference for the Division. Dr.Cooke made special mention of thanks to all who have been involved in the establishment of these new arrangements, and with particular gratitude to Dr.Franklin C.Fry and Dr.Wayland Zwayer, Chairman and Secretary of the former committee.

Extensive discussions between the Division and mission representatives have also led to greater understanding and cooperation concerning the Asia and Africa Service and project programmes.

The Division's concern is further expressed in the addition of three mission representatives (Messrs. Chetsingh, Marantika and Sly) including an International Missionary Council consultant (Dr.Carpenter) to the Administrative Committee.

The Director then spoke in great detail of the Hungarian crisis and the part played by the churches through the Division. From the start the Division has been able to play a most active role in this situation by virtue of the on-going refugee programme and staff in Austria. The various communications to the churches indicate the different phases of the crisis . Currently the most

difficult aspect of such an emergency is being faced whereas the excitement and extensive resettlement schemes are waning despite the remaining existence of a large refugee problem.

Answers to the Division's appeal indicate grants or commitments totalling over one million dollars of which $ 833,000 have been earmarked for the W.C.C.

At the same time the Division has been concerned about the Middle East crisis, and the Director indicated what efforts have been undertaken to survey and aid the needs. Fortunately Mr.Russell Stevenson was able to make a quick trip to Egypt and Port Said and was thereby able to bring back a first-hand report as well as represent the W.C.C. to the Egyptian churches.

Dr.van Beyma had also recently returned from a comprehensive trip in Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

New developments of future concern involve the formation of ecumenical teams that will serve in Algiers and Italy and possibly in Tunisia and Morocco.

The Division also looks forward to the Prapat Conference during which it is hoped that the concept and practical applications of Inter-Church Aid in Asia will be considered.

Dr.Chandler then spoke of the refugee programme for 1956 emphasizing that the Service to Refugees was not simply a resettlement agency but a Christian body with a Christian concern for persons individually. As such there is complete involvement in welfare, housing, employment, pastoral care and church relations as well as resettlement.

The total number of persons resettled in other countries to date is 28.470; of these 18,000 were placed because church families gave the assurances. Dr.Chandler praised the work of Messrs Elliott and Wilson of Church World Service particularly with their programme that brought in 60,000 assurances.

Settlement of "hard-core" cases continues promising and gratifying.

December 31st, 1956 marked the end of the Refugee Relief Act which closed with good success. 30,314 visas were issued, and of gratification is that the programme gave an opportunity to move non-European refugees as well as European.

Dr. van Beyma then spoke of his recent trip to the Middle East. He emphasized that the British and French were in grave difficulties and there seemed little likelihood of their being able to return to these areas.

Israel, on the other hand, feels abandoned by her friends, possibly except for France, and is bitter against U.S. policy.

In Gaza there are an additional group of unsupported residents - a new refugee group.

In closing, the Director proposed two resolutions concerning membership of the Administrative Committee and endorsing the new U.S.A. arrangements, as follows :

Resolution I

In accordance with the reference made to it by the Central Committee at Galyatetö (see minutes of Central Committee, page 54 and page 127) the Executive Committee appoints the Rev.Virgil Sly, Division Executive Chairman and Executive Secretary of the United Christian Missionary Society (Disciples of Christ) to membership of the Administrative Committee of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees.

Resolution II

Having received from the Administrative Committee of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees a report of the reconstitution of the Advisory Committee of the U.S.Conference of Member Churches and having taken note of the approval of those new arrangements by the Administrative Committee, the Executive Committee endorses the Administrative Committee action in accepting the scheme of reorganisation.

Both were approved.

The Bishop of Chichester expressed his gratitude for the work of the Division, especially with regard to refugees, and for the fact that the W.C.C. has this remarkable instrument that can meet such varied needs.

Dr.Eugene Smith spoke in appreciation for the relationships that have been developing between the North American missionary societies and DICASR, but urged that serious consideration be given to the List on World Needs and its validity. The suggestion was that the Division should concentrate on more "unique" projects such as an ecumenical body can best undertake (for example the training of church personnel from the separatist churches in South Africa).

23. Finance

The report of the Finance Sub-Committee was presented by its Chairman, Dr.Blake. The report is set out below and the discussion and action of the Executive Committee is recorded after each section of the report.

a) First Estimate of 1956 General Budget Results

"The Sub-Committee was informed that the first estimate of actual expenditure in 1956 was $ 449,437 or less than $ 2,000 below the budget level.

Receipts for 1956 were estimated as follows:

From Member Churches	$ 415,000 - 416,500
Interest	4,882
Inter-Church Aid	
For Information Department	13,000
For Divisional Staff	9,364
	(27,246)
	$ 442,250 - 443,750

The first estimates thus suggested a deficit between $ 5,500 and $ 7,000 compared with the estimates at the Central Committee meeting in August 1956 of a deficit of about $ 5,000.

The Sub-Committee discussed the statements in some detail and noted that final expenses might be slightly higher than the present estimates. The Sub-Committee also noted that, by reason of a number of disappointments in member Churches contributions, revenue would not be up to the full $ 420,000 requested by the Evanston Assembly. The Central Committee at its meeting in 1956 had authorized action to cover a deficit in 1956 by deferring for one further year the covering of the full expenses of the Ecumenical Institute from current income and drawing on the reserve of the Institute for whatever sum might be necessary, provided that the total withdrawals from that reserve in 1955 and 1956 do not exceed $ 10,000. It appeared unlikely that the deficit would be of such size that it could not be handled under the above decision of the Central Committee. The Finance Sub-Committee therefore took note of the report and of the fact that the accounts for 1956 could be prepared and closed within the provision of the decision on this question already taken by the Central Committee."

The Executive Committee took note of this information.

b) Level of Expenditure under General Budget for 1957

"The Sub-Committee received a statement setting out a detailed expenditure level for 1957 submitted by the staff for consideration. It was recalled that the Central Committee had in August 1956 given approval for a budget for 1957 totalling $ 460,000 and generally based as to the detailed budgets for divisions, departments, etc. upon the forecast level of expenditure for 1956 as presented at that time. It was further recalled that the Central Committee gave explicit authority to the Executive Committee to approve, at its meeting in February 1957, a level of expenditure exceeding forecast revenue by at most $ 10,000 if this should prove necessary for the maintenance of the present approved programme.

The suggested expenditure level set out in the documents submitted to the Sub-Committee totalled $ 455,000. This exceeds by slightly more than $ 10,000 the forecast level of revenue for 1956 but it is thought reasonably safe to suppose that revenue in 1957 will rise to the level of $ 445,000.

The Finance Sub-Committee was informed that the present programme could be maintained with expenditures at the suggested levels only by strict economy in expenditures and by reason of the fact that project money is available for the programme work of certain departments, particularly in the Study Division. The Finance Sub-Committee was further informed that no provision had been made for contingencies or unforeseen expenses and the suggested expenditure level was therefore a closely drawn forecast of what would be spent on the maintenance of the programme. The Sub-Committee noted with concern that no provision had been made for any expenditure which might arise from the adoption of a scheme for staff retirement pensions and recognized that the point had been reach at which minimum current expenses exceed revenue.

The Finance Sub-Committee recognized that the action taken by the Central Committee and quoted in the first paragraph of this

section specifically foresaw the possibility that the Executive Committee might be faced with this position and authorized the maintenance of the programme, provided that such action would not involve authorizing expenditure at a level exceeding expected income by more than $ 10,000 and therefore agreed to recommend:

> that appoval be given to a level of expenditure for 1957 totalling $ 455,000, as set out in the third column of Appendix II".

The Executive Committee received this report and agreed to adopt the above recommendation.

c) General Budget - Financial Problem up to the Third Assembly

"The Finance Sub-Committee discussed the problem arising from the inadequacy of present income to cover the expenditure involved in the presently approved programme. It was noted that possible increases in revenue included :

> increased interest on investments resulting from the investment of further resources,
>
> increased member church income resulting from the admission of new member churches,
>
> increased contributions from member churches.

In connection with the last item it was recalled that the Central Committee, meeting in 1956, had agreed with a view to seeking increased revenue:

> ' that a small committee be appointed by the Officers of the Central Committee to examine the financial support of the work of the World Council and to give particular attention to:
>
> i) the possibility of securing contributions from those member churches which at present are not contributing;
>
> ii) the possibility of securing increased contributions from those member churches the level of whose contributions does not appear to demonstrate an adequate sense of responsibility for the work of the World Council. '

The Finance Sub-Committee took note of the possibility of meeting the position by reducing the annual allocations to the General Reserve at present fixed at $ 20,000 p.a. and considered that, although this would be a possible step, such a reduction would be most undesirable.

The Finance Sub-Committee felt that this position should be reported to the Executive Committee and would clearly require the attention of the General Secretariat between now and the summer and discussion at the Central Committee meeting of 1957.

The Sub-Committee discussed the expense involved in holding meetings of all Divisional and Departmental Committee each year.

It was noted that, in 1957, the Study Division would not be holding meetings of all Departmental Committees. Since the Divisional and Departmental Committee meetings will precede the summer meeting of the Executive, it was suggested that the General Secretariat should examine this question and consider whether some warning should, in the light of the general financial position, be given to the officers of those meetings regarding the planning of meetings for 1958."

In presenting this section of the report, Dr.Blake pointed out that 1957 and 1958 appeared likely to be difficult years. The programme involved expenditures exceeding presently foreseeable income. In 1959 and 1960 the staff would be deeply engaged in preparations for the Third Assembly and some expenses would be chargeable to the Assembly Budget. The raising of the required income for the Assembly Budget represented another problem but some relief on General Budget problems might be anticipated in 1959 and 1960. In reply to a question, Dr.Blake confirmed that all calculations had been based on the assumption that the allocations of $ 20,000 p.a. each to the General Reserve and the reserve for the expenses of the Third Assembly should be maintained.

Dr.Fry emphasized the importance of the annual meetings of Divisional and Departmental Committees in drawing representatives of the member Churches into the discussion of programme and policy. Dr. Blake explained that the decision not to hold meetings of all Departmental Committees in the Study Division had not been dictated solely by financial considerations and that it was felt that meetings of all committees every year might not be essential.

d) First Estimates of 1956 Results under the Service-Programme - Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees

"The Finance Sub-Committee was informed that the first estimate of the final results under the Service Programme for 1956 had been reported to the Administrative Committee of the Division, meeting during the previous week, and that those figures suggested that expenditure on all parts of the Service Programme, other than the Service to Refugees, had been about $ 52,000 below expenditure budget level; assured income was $ 30,000 below budget level and there was still a possibility that further contributions totalling up to $ 32,000 might be received. There would thus be a surplus on the operations under the Service Programme for 1956, the allocation of which would be considered by the Administrative Committee of the Division at its meeting in April 1957.

As regards the Service to Refugees, the Finance Sub-Committee was informed that the operations for 1956, including the full budgeted allocation of $ 425,000 from Service Programme income, were expected to result in a surplus on the 1956 operation of around $ 80,000. This surplus would be applied in reduction of the accumulated deficit of $ 230,000 brought forward from previous years and would thus reduce the accumulated deficit of about $ 150,000. It was further reported that in accordance with earlier decisions, all revenue earned from movements under RRA in 1957 would be applied in further reduction of that deficit. Movements under RRA would cease at April 30, 1957 and the position would then become finally clear; present expectations were that grant-earning movements in the first months of 1957 might reach the figure of 6,000 necessary completely to eliminate the deficit and should surely approach that figure.

The Finance Sub-Committee noted with gratification that the large deficit on the Service to Refugees programme would in any event be very substantially reduced and possibly entirely eliminated by the ending of the RRA programme and expressed its satisfaction at this result to the Director of the Division and the Director of the Service to Refugees."

Dr.Blake pointed out that the under-spending on the Service Programme was the result of planned action by the Administrative Committee of the Division designed to safeguard the position. He recalled that the practice of the Executive Committee has been to leave responsibility for this work to the Administrative Committee; in view of the serious position over the past few years, it seemed however desirable that the facts should be reported to the Executive Committee.

Dr.Fry pointed out that the position of the Service to Refugees had improved to a degree surpassing the hopes expressed six months earlier and the Executive Committee took note of the report.

e) Hungarian Emergency

"The Finance Sub-Committee received a report that the Director of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees had launched an appeal for $ 600,000 following the Hungarian emergency and that the results had been reviewed by the Administrative Committee of the Division at its meeting in the previous week. The appeal had been made for funds for the Hungarian emergency and also for assistance to churches in and refugees from Eastern European countries generally. The Administrative Committee of the Division had approved the allocation within this fund of $ 350,000 for work by the Service to Refugees, $ 225,000 to be used, when possible, for the rehabilitation of the churches of Hungary and other Eastern European countries and $ 25,000 for special supplies. The Finance Sub-Committee received with gratification news of the generous response of the member Churches in many countries to this appeal.

The Finance Sub-Committee received a report of the plans for the use of these funds which had been approved by the Administrative Committee of the Division in the previous week and noted with approval the decision that the $ 225,000 allocated for use to help the churches in Hungary and other Eastern European countries if and when it becomes possible to send assistance to them, should for the present, be held in reserve for that purpose. The Finance Sub-Committee also noted that the Administrative Committee had recorded the fact that a fund of $ 600,000 would be inadequate to meet the total needs arising from the emergency and had called upon the member Churches to continue to give maximum support to this special fund."

Dr.Blake added that the response to the appeal had been generous and wide-spread, including contributions from countries which have not in the past contributed to the work of the Division.

f) Service Programme 1957 - Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees

" The Finance Sub-Committee received a report on the action taken by the Administrative Committee in approving a budget for expenditures under the Service Programme for 1957."

g) Travel Loan Fund

" The Finance Sub-Committee was informed that the position of the Travel Loan Fund had also been reviewed by the Administrative Committee of the Division during the previous week. First estimates indicated that the overdraft on the fund had declined from $ 377,690 at the beginning of 1956 to about $ 200,000 at the end of 1956 and that this had been possible while making 4,588 movements under the Revolving Fund, whereas earlier plans had foreseen the necessity of limiting movements to 4.000. The Administrative Committee of the Division had found that to realize the objective of eliminating completely the overdraft on the Travel Loan Fund by the end of 1957 would have involved restricting movements to a degree which would have restricted unduly the operations of the Service to Refugees, but that with movements of about 3,500 in 1957 it would be possible to reduce the overdraft to about $ 60,000 by the end of 1957. Under the circumstances, the Administrative Committee of the Division had felt that it would be justifiable to defer the objective date for the complete elimination of the overdraft on the Travel Loan Fund and to authorize operations in 1957 on a basis which would reduce the overdraft at the end of the year to about $ 60,000.

Assurance was sought by the Finance Sub-Committee and given by the Director of the Division, that the overdraft on the Travel Loan Fund would be fully eliminated in the course of 1958 and preferably within the first part of 1958. It was felt that the objective of the complete elimination of the overdraft was one which must be realized at the earliest possible moment consistent with the maintenance of a reasonable operation.

Recalling that in February 1956, on the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee had adopted a resolution approving and endorsing the decision of the Administrative Committee "that operations under the Travel Loan Fund be so conducted that the overdraft be eliminated in any event by end 1957 and if possible at an earlier date", the Finance Sub-Committee agreed to recommend:

> that the Executive Committee, after receiving a report on the action taken by the Administrative Committee of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees regarding the Travel Loan Fund, notes with satisfaction the improvement and the projected further improvement in this fund, concurs in the decision of the Administrative Committee to authorize operations in 1957 on a basis which would reduce the overdraft on the fund at the end of 1957 to about $ 60,000 and leaves the supervision of further operations in the hands of the Administrative Committee, requesting that committee to ensure that the complete elemination of the overdraft be achieved as soon as reasonably possible in 1958."

Dr.Blake recalled that it would be possible to eliminate the overdraft on the Travel Loan Fund quickly by discontinuing the granting of any new loans. This would, however, mean stopping one important part of the work of the Service to Refugees. The Administrative Committee of the Division recognized that the objective of completely eliminating the overdraft must be achieved as soon as reasonably possible.

Dr. Blake reported that in December 1956 it had been found possible to repay the loan received from the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration to assist the World Council in the financing of the overdraft.

The Executive Committee agreed to adopt the above recommendation.

h) Investments

"The Finance Sub-Committee received a report showing that the total holdings in Switzerland and the U.S.A. have a book value of $ 171,393 and a market value at December 31,1956 of $ 166,853. The market value was thus $ 4,540 below book value but against this there is an Investment Fluctuation Fund of $ 10,000.

The Sub-Committee noted that the balances in the general reserves of the World Council of Churches and Ecumenical Institute at end 1956 would exceed the investments by about $ 40,000 and considered that the investments should be increased by this amount.

The Central Committee at its meeting in Hungary had adopted a recommendation from the Finance Committee that an additional sum of $ 20,000 should be invested in the U.S.A. and that the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr.Parlin and the Director of Finance and Administration be authorized to invest the money with the investment fund of a member Church in the U.S.A. to be chosen by them after examination of the possibilities. This decision had not been implemented because it was found that legal provisions made it impractical to invest with the investment fund of a member Church in the U.S.A.

Recalling the desire expressed already by the Finance Committee of the Evanston Assembly that a part of the reserves should be invested in the U.S.A. and a part of the total investments should be in equities rather than in trustee securities, the Finance Committee agreed to recommend to the Executive Committee:

i) that the small expert committee which acts as the Investment Committee of the Church of Geneva and of which M.Georges Lombard is Chairman, be asked whether they would be willing also to serve the World Council of Churches in the same advisory capacity,

ii) that if they are willing so to serve, they be asked to seek to handle the investments of the World Council of Churches with an objective of reaching within a few years the adjustment of the portfolio so that roughly one half of the total be held in each of the two countries- Switzerland and U.S.A. - and roughly one third of the total holdings be in sound equities,

iii) that the Investment Committee be asked to make immediate proposals for the investment of an additional sum of $ 40,000 and the Director of Finance and Administration be authorized, after consultation with the Chairman of the Finance Committee and Mr.Parlin, to invest that sum in accordance with their recommendations,

iv) that the Investment Committee be asked further to seek the realisation of the objectives indicated under ii)

above in making recommendations for the re-investment of any sums which may become available from the repayment of bonds,

v) that the Investment Committee be requested to advise as to whether they would, bearing in mind the probability that the total investments will in the years to come be increased at the rate of $ 20,000 p.a., the present status of the markets and the detail of the present portfolio, recommend the sale of any holdings and the re-investment of the proceeds and that the Director of Finance and Administration be authorized, after consultation with the Chairman of the Finance Committee and Mr.Parlin, to act in accordance with their advice.

The Sub-Committee took note of the fact that the Swiss investments of the World Council are at present held in custody account by Messrs. Lombard,Odier and Co. and agreed that the full Swiss/American portfolio to be created under the above plan should be placed in custody account with that bank.

It was observed that, in connection with investment of funds in the U.S.A., there might be advantage in incorporating the World Council of Churches in the United States. The Director of Finance and Administration was directed to examine this problem in consultation with the Chairman, Mr.Parlin and Mr.Lombard and, if such action should be judged desirable, to prepare the necessary resolutions and actions for presentation to the Central Committee meeting in the summer.

The Finance Sub-Committee was advised that the authority to borrow money if necessary against the World Council's investments, which had been granted or renewed by the Executive Committee at each of the last four meetings, would not need to be renewed. The Finance Sub-Committee took note with gratification that it had not, at any time, been found necessary to act under those powers and that the improved financial position of the Service to Refugees made it unnecessary for renewal of the borrowing powers to be granted at this time."

During the discussion of this question the formulation of recommendations i) - v) above was revised at certain points; the text shown above incorporates those revisions.

The Executive Committee agreed to adopt the recommendations of the Finance Sub-Committee as revised and as reproduced above.

i) Headquarters Properties

"The Finance Sub-Committee was informed that it had proved impossible to purchase No.11 route de Malagnou under the authorization for this purchase which had been granted by the Central Committee at its meeting in 1956. Negotiations with the City Authorities had, however, led to a decision of the Administrative Council of the City of Geneva accepting in principle the acquisition by the World Council of Churches of a part of 15 route de Malagnou by exchange or by purchase. This property, together with the properties already owned by the World Council, would give a total ground surface of about 12,000 sq.m. and the staff judgement was that this area would be sufficient to permit satisfactory development of headquarters

properties on the site available. Negotiations had not yet been conducted with the City Authorities as to the terms upon which that part of 15 route de Malagnou which the City might be able to sell, should be sold to the World Council of Churches. In order to permit prompt action in the light of the developing situation the Finance Sub-Committee agreed to recommend:

i) that the Executive Committee authorize the purchase of that part of the property No.15 route de Malagnou which the City of Geneva is prepared to sell at a price to be negotiated with them subject to the approval of the price by the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Chairman of the Central Committee. It is understood that the price will be below the amount approved by the Central Committee in 1956 for the purchase of No.11 route de Malagnou;

ii) that the Executive Committee authorize the borrowing of whatever sum may be necessary for this purpose by mortgage on the whole of the Malagnou properties or against securities;

iii) that the Executive Committee authorize the inclusion in the minutes of this meeting of such resolutions as counsel may advise authorizing any two of the following to execute the legal documents necessary for the purchase of 15 route de Malagnou and for the raising of a mortgage loan on the Malagnou Properties: the General Secretary, the three Associate General Secretaries stationed in Geneva, and the Director of Finance and Administration."

Dr.Blake recalled the difficulties which had been experienced over the preceding 18 months in the matter of the acquisition of properties and suggested that the facts now reported represented a satisfactory solution. He confirmed that there was no intention of purchasing both 11 route de Malagnou under the authority granted by the Central Committee and 15 route de Malagnou under the above recommendations. He reported that it was improbable that there would be need to use the borrowing power suggested under recommendation ii) above.

The Executive Committee agreed to adopt recommendations i) - iii) above.

Dr.Blake then presented the second part of the report on this question.

"The Sub-Committee then turned to the consideration of the choice of architects for the preparation of plans for the development of Headquarters Properties . It was reported that after an examination of the proposals made by individuals to the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Staff and he had agreed that a recommendation should be sent to the members of the ad hoc Headquarters Properties Committee that Mr.Otto G.Senn of Basel, Switzerland, an active churchman and a Swiss architect of the highest international reputation, be employed to develop the plans for the Headquarters Properties on route de Malagnou and further that Professor Otto Bartning of Germany be employed as consultant so that in the final plans we should have gone beyond Switzerland in our consultation. The proposal assumed that M.Lesemann would be the supervising architect under Mr.Senn in Geneva, in harmony with

the action of the Central Committee. This recommendation had taken into account the fact that both of the two names suggested are of active churchmen who can be counted on to be personally interested in the excellence of the whole project and that in choosing a Swiss architect of international reputation, we should be choosing one familiar with Swiss building conditions and also near to the property and therefore able to give closer attention with less expense to the supervision of the development.

The Sub-Committee after discussing the position agreed to recommand:

iv) that Mr.Otto H.Senn of Basel be invited as architect, and Professor Dr.Otto Bartning of Germany be invited as consulting architect, to accept the commission of preparing in time for presentation to the 1957 Central Committee meeting, preliminary proposals for the development of headquarters properties for the World Council at route de Malagnou;

v) that the commission be offered to the above-named architects on the understanding that the World Council commits itself at this time, according to the normal practice of the architect's profession, only to the commission for the preparation of provisional plans;

vi) that the above-named architects be informed of the intention expressed by the Central Committee that the architect or architects finally charged with this work should be requested to associate with himself or themselves as supervising architect, M.Henri G.Lesemann of Geneva, who has so long been associated with our planning.

The Finance Sub-Committee suggested that the architects should be asked to produce alternative plans for the development on the supposition that it will and on the supposition that it will not eventually prove possible to secure that small part of 11 route de Malagnou which is needed to complete the symetrical pattern of the World Council's properties and should be told that they should feel at liberty to report if it should be their conclusion that the ground surface available is inadequate to permit the development of a satisfactory plan for the World Council headquarters. It was further suggested that any plan should be one which should bear in mind the possibility of eventual acquisition by the World Council of Churches of the properties 19a to 23 route de Malagnou and which would be satisfactory in either eventuality of the World Council failing or succeeding in its endeavours to secure those properties."

Dr.Payne, as Chairman of the meeting, pointed out that the Central Committee had given power to the ad hoc Headquarters Properties Committee to take a decision on the choice of architects. Dr.Blake explained that it had been felt best to consult the full Executive Committee, since it was in session at the time at which a decision was necessary. Dr. Blake further confirmed that the directives of the Central Committee as to the volume and nature of the buildings required, remained operative.

In reply to a question concerning the choice of Mr.Senn, Dr.Blake explained the reasons for the choice and mentioned the

names of certain other architects who had been considered. Dr.Fry pointed out that the choice of architects is a matter on which unanimous agreement is almost unobtainable.

The Executive Committee agreed to adopt recommendations iv) - vi).

k) Improved Services of Translation Section

"The Finance Sub-Committee received a proposal for action to improve the translation services of the World Council of Churches and recognized the importance of this problem and the fact that it is one problem to which frequent reference has been made in the Central Committee and which cannot be solved without increased expenditure. After discussion the Finance Sub-Committee agreed to submit the following recommendations:

i) that authority be granted for additional expenditure at a rate not exceeding $ 10,000 per annum to be incurred in improving the services of the Translation Section, this expenditure to be covered by draft on the Special Reserve;

ii) that in seeking to achieve this improved service the following steps might be taken in so far as financial limitations permit, in the following order of priority:

to engage a staff member of adequate qualifications to supervise and organize the translation services, to act as checker of translations and generally to serve as the senior translator;

to seek to realize a proposal which has been seriously discussed in Germany that a staff member might be provided for the Translation Section from Germany with a salary paid from Germany and possibly a supplementary salary but certainly all other expenses borne by the World Council of Churches;

that if possible a similar proposal be followed in respect of a contributed staff member from England."

Dr.Blake expressed his concern regarding the dominance of the English language in discussions and suggested that it was highly appropriate to use the Special Reserve, built up by U.S.A. contributions in excess of the objective for US giving, to improve translation services. The acceptance of the recommendations would virtually establish a procedure for the period till the Third Assembly; the Committee on Programme and Finance would have to seek to make financial provision for this problem for the succeeding period.

Bishop Barbieri drew attention to the need for translations into Spanish. In discussion the importance of this problem was recognized.

The Executive Committee agreed to adopt the above recommendations.

1) Stebbins Fund

"The Finance Sub-Committee was reminded of the legacy of $ 2,500 received from Mrs.Stebbins in 1955, which was used to create a special reserve for the department of Faith and Order. In response to a proposal from the staff, the Finance Sub-Committee agreed to recommend:

> that permissive authority should be granted for the expenditure from the above fund of up to $ 500 if needed to assist the budget of the North American Faith and Order Conference at Oberlin (September 1957) and for the expenditure of a maximum of $ 2,000 to help to cover the travel costs of Faith and Order Commission members to the meeting in New Haven in July 1957.

The Sub-Committee noted that the above authorizations were requested in permissive form because it is by no means certain that the first expenditure will prove to be necessary and most improbable that the expenditure under the second item will be as great as $ 2,000."

The Executive Committee agreed to adopt the above recommendation.

m) Personnel Questions

"The Finance Sub-Committee noted that no general revision of Executive Staff salaries was required, since the whole salaries' list and scale had been reviewed in February 1956. The Finance Sub-Committee granted approval for a revision of salary in one specific case.

The Sub-Committee was informed that a small number of revisions of office staff salaries had been granted from January 1, 1957 at the decision of the General Secretariat and agreed that such ordinary adjustments of office staff salaries should in future be made by the General Secretariat without prior reference to the Finance Sub-Committee or the Executive Committee.

The Sub-Committee was informed that a number of members of the Executive Staff would have completed three years of service in the summer of 1957 and might therefore be granted home leave with paid fares for their families in this year. Furthermore, most of the staff members in question were Americans who would themselves be travelling to the U.S.A. for the summer meetings in New Haven. The Finance Sub-Committee gave approval for the granting of home leave to nine staff families in the summer of 1957.

The Finance Sub-Committee was informed that the cost of living index in Switzerland has been rising in recent months and had reached the level of 177.4 at the end of 1956. Under the staff rules of the World Council of Churches, salaries are subject to review in the event of a change of seven points or more in the cost of living index above or below 173. The point had therefore not yet been reached at which any review was necessary under the rules but should there be a further increase in the cost of living in the first months of 1957, such a review might become necessary. The Finance Sub-Committee were agreed that any action which might become necessary under this provision should be a matter for action

by the Central Committee meeting in the summer of 1957, whilst reserving the possibility that if necessary such action might be taken with retro-active effect."

The Executive Committee agreed to adopt the above recommendations.

Dr.Blake expressed, in the name of the Finance Sub-Committee, appreciation of the services rendered to the World Council and to the Finance Committee by the General Secretariat and the staff and the director of the Department of Finance and Administration.

24. First Provisional Report of Committee on Programme and Finance

Dr.Blake presented a first provisional report from the Committee on Programme and Finance (see Appendix III).

The Chairman submitted the recommendation in paragraph 5 to the Executive Committee. Dr.Blake explained that the suggested addition to the terms of reference was thought to be desirable to make explicit that which was already implicit in the original wording. Dr.Bliss asked for definition of the "declared principles" of the World Council, referred to in the suggested addition. Dr.Visser 't Hooft mentioned the Toronto statement, the report on Structure and Functioning which was approved by the Evanston Assembly and the Central Committee decisions.

The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Central Committee:

> that there be added to the terms of reference of the Committee on Programme and Finance, after the phrase "to examine the programme and budget of the World Council of Churches" the following "and the nature and scope of the programme which the World Council should carry on in the light of its declared principles, the expressed needs and desires of the churches and their ability to support the programme".

The Chairman then drew attention to the request from the Committee on Programme and Finance for direction from the Executive Committee as to whether the broad outline indicated in its report met with approval and the programme of action outlined in the report represented that programme which the Executive Committee would wish it to follow.

In presenting the report, Dr.Blake suggested that the second sentence of paragraph 6 was perhaps worded a little more strongly than the Committee's discussion warranted; no more than very provisional judgements had been formed at the first meeting. A better formulation might be that the Committee had not concluded that the World Council should not be engaged in any of the activities in which it is now engaged. Dr.Payne suggested that the reference in the sentence in question should be to "the existing programme and structure" and not merely to "structure".

Dr.Pope asked whether the Committee had reached the conclusion that there were activities which should be added to the

World Council's programme and structure. Dr.Blake replied that no conclusion in that sense had been reached at the first meeting. The sense of the discussion had pointed to the need for excellence of service in all activities in which the World Council is engaged. The problem of marrying that objective to the financial possibilities was seen as a major concern for the Committee.

Dr.Fry asked whether all activities authorized by the Evanston Assembly had been undertaken. Dr.Blake suggested that the General Secretariat had been striving to achieve that objective with inadequate means.

The question of project income was discussed. In reply to Dr.Fry, Dr.Blake suggested that the reference to the need for "some reasonable balance between the project income available to the various divisions and departments" was not fully applicable to the operations of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees which include "projects" of a different nature from those referred to by the Committee. Dr.Blake, in reply to Dr.Pope, explained that the Committee was fully conscious of the need to develop procedures which, whilst controlling project income, would not unnecessarily hinder the securing of project income and recalled the action on this question taken by the Executive Committee in February 1955.

He suggested that the wording in the decisions taken in 1955, excluding "projects which would develop into continuing programmes" would be improved by revision to read "which would inevitably develop ...." Dr.Smith suggested a formulation indicating that a project must be for work which can be terminated when special resources are exhausted.

After this discussion, the Executive Committee gave general approval of the broad outline of the first report and to the suggested programme of action.

25. Report of Staffing Committee

Dr.Payne presented the Report as follows:

I. Reappointments

The Rules (Rule VII 3) provide for staff to be proposed by Departmental and Divisional Committees to the Central Committee. The Executive Committee notes that in the case of the following reappointments, no proposals for a change in personnel have come forward from Departmental and Divisional Committees.

A. The Executive Committee :

1) recommends to the Central Committee that the Rev.Paul Abrecht be reappointed as Executive Secretary of the Department on Church and Society for a three year term ending in 1960;

2) recommends to the Central Committee that Melle Madeleine Barot be re-appointed as Executive Secretary of the Department on Cooperation between Men and Women in Church and Society for a three year term ending in 1960;

3) recommends to the Central Committee that Dr.Edgar H.S. Chandler be re-appointed as Associate Director of the Division

of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees, and Director of Refugee Service for a three year term ending in 1960;

4) recommends to the Central Committee that the Rev.John Garrett be reappointed as Director of the Department of Information for a three year term ending in 1960;

5) recommends to the Central Committee that Dr.Hans H.Harms be reappointed as Associate Director of the Division of Studies for a three year term ending in 1960;

6) recommends to the Central Committee that Mr.Frank Northam be reappointed as Director of the Department of Finance and Administration for a three year term ending in 1960;

7) recommends to the Central Committee that the Rev.Elfan Rees be reappointed as Advisor on Refugees of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees and Permanent Representative of the C.C.I.A. in Europe, for a three year term ending in 1960;

8) recommends to the Central Committee that the Rev.Philip Potter be reappointed as Secretary in the Youth Department for a three year term ending in 1960;

B. Further the Executive Committee reappoints:

1) Miss Eleanor Kent Browne as Secretary for Administration and Assistant Treasurer, in the New York office, for a three year term ending in 1960, subject to concurrent action by the Conference of U.S. Member Churches;

2) Miss Margaret Jaboor as Associate Director of Refugee Service for a three year term ending in 1960;

3) The Rev.Raymond Maxwell as Secretary for Orthodox Churches and Countries for a three year term ending in 1960;

4) Mr.Alexandre de Weymarn for a three year term ending in 1960, as special Research Officer, responsible to the General Secretary.

C. Further, the Executive Committee authorises the General Secretariat to take action at a later date concerning the reappointment of Mr.Alan Haigh and Mr.Wolfgang Kordon.

II Resignations

The Executive Committee heard with great regret of the following resignations from the staff:

a) Dr.Samuel McCrea Cavert. As previously reported, Dr.Cavert plans to resign in September 1957, but will be able to remain on the staff for a few months, if necessary, after consultation with the officers of the Central Committee as to date.

b) The Rev. Bengt-Thure Molander plans to resign in September 1957, but will be able to remain on the staff for a few months, if necessary, the exact period to be determined by the General Secretariat.

c) Dr.J.Robert Nelson plans to resign in September 1957.

d) Mr.Peter Smallwood plans to resign in the autumn of 1957.

III. New Appointments

A. The Executive Committee notes the offer of the Presbyterian Church U.S. to provide the services of Mr.Andrews to the Department on the Laity for the year beginning Dec.1, 1957, and accepts this offer subject to funds for his expenses being provided and to satisfactory reports from further investigation by Dean Pope and Dr.Cavert.

B. The Executive Committee receives the proposal transmitted by Bishop Sherrill and Dr.Fry as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the U.S.Conference of Member Churches on behalf of that Conference and in accord with it recommends to the Central Committee that Dr. Roswell P.Barnes be invited to become Executive Secretary in New York, subject to concurrent action by the Conference of U.S. Member Churches.

C. After consultation with Dr.Oliver S.Tomkins, chairman of the Working Committee on Faith and Order, the Executive Committee suggests to the Faith and Order Commission that, in the emergency created by Dr.Nelson's resignation, it nominate to the Central Committee Dr.Keith Bridston as Executive Secretary pro tem of the Department on Faith and Order, for one year beginning in September 1957, subject to the agreement of the Working Committee of the Department on Faith and Order.

D. The Executive Committee invites the Rev.N.Nissiotis to serve as third member of staff at the Ecumenical Institute, for a two year term beginning in September 1958.

E. The Executive Committee confirms the action of the officers in appointing Miss Roberta Riggleman as Secretary in the Department of Information for a three year term ending in 1960.

F. The Executive Committee confirms the appointment of Mr.Ralph Weltge as Secretary for Work Camps in the Youth Department for a three year period ending in 1960.

G. The Executive Committee notes the possibility of a staff member being supplied by the Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council of Churches in the U.S.A. to the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees. This staff member would work under the mandate of the Division especially for its work in countries outside Europe.

26. Library

Dr.Bilheimer reported that the meeting of the Central Committee in 1956 had noted the survey and report on the Library prepared by Mr.Raymond Morris, Librarian of Yale Divinity School, and asked the staff to study the report, at the same time referring that part of the report dealing with buildings to the Headquarters Properties Committee.

The staff reports that its study of the report of Mr.Morris results in a general approval of the plans suggested. The report

adequately describes the needs of the W.C.C. in respect of a library and proposes a suitable programme to provide a serviceable library. The staff has noted some minor modifications in the plan.

The Headquarters Properties and Finance Committees have recommended that provision for a library be included in the total building plan, the hope being expressed that funds could be found to provide suitable building space for a larger and better equipped library than we have at present.

The report of Mr.Morris calls for two plans. One would provide a building and equipment, and a sustaining programme for five years for a library at Malagnou, together with equipment and the purchase of books at Bossey for a total cost of $ 178,500. The other would provide for adaptations of the present building to library processes, a sustaining programme at Malagnou, and equipment and the purchase of books at Bossey for a total cost of $ 73,500.

After discussion it was agreed

that the Executive Committee express its hope that the first plan be realized and authorize the staff to seek special funds for it.

27. Report of the New York Office

Dr.Cavert reported:

"1. In its effort to serve all departments of the Council the New York Office has welcomed, and arranged schedules for, several members of the Geneva staff during the fall. These have included Mr.House, Dr.Cooke, Dr.Bilheimer, Mr.Weber, Miss Turnbull, and (for a longer period, in association with the C.C.I.A.) Dr.Rees. Mr.Potter is spending a full year in the New York Office on behalf of the Youth Department.

2. In connection with these visits the New York Office has cooperated in helping to secure financial resources for two projects:
(a) a grant from the Fund for the Republic toward the expenses of Dr.J.Oscar Lee's inquiry into the future programme of the World Council in race relations;
(b) a grant from the Phelps-Stokes Fund for enlarging the African aspect of the study of Rapid Social Change.

3. Two other contributions from American Churches in terms of personnel loaned to the World Council may be reported:
(a) from the Presbyterian (U.S.A.) Board of Christian Education, the part-time service of its secretary for social education and action (Dr.Clifford Earle) for directing the American participation in the study of Rapid Social Change;
(b) from the Southern Presbyterian Department of Men's Work, the service of its programme secretary (Mr.Andrews) for a year's assistance to the Secretary of the World Council's Department on the Laity.
It is possible that a third loan of personnel may be offered to the Department of Information for a year's experimental inquiry into the World Council's role in broadcasting.

4. Gratifying progress has been made in strengthening and clarifying relationships with the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. in all areas of common responsibility. In general, it may be said that there is now full agreement that in all matters of programme in which the National Council has a concern paralleling that of the World Council, the National Council will serve the interests of the World Council. The World Council will carry an independent responsibility in the fields of its financial support and public interpretation. The most important new development in this connection is the agreement between the World Council's Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees and the National Council's Department of Church World Service, whereby the Executive Committee of the latter (now enlarged to insure an adequate representation of the missionary boards) serves also as the Advisory Committee on Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees for the U.S. Conference for the W.C.C.

5. The New York Office conducts its work in close collaboration with the U.S.Conference for the World Council of Churches - well illustrated at the present time by two regional projects for which the U.S.Conference carries the primary responsibility- One of these is a national consultation on evangelism, which is to be held at Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania, for three days in May in connection with the visit of Dr.D.T.Niles to the U.S.A. in the spring. The other is the North American Faith and Order Conference on "The Nature of the Unity We Seek", which is to be held in Oberlin, Ohio, September 3 - 10. The Oberlin Conference gives promise of becoming a very significant development as the first major meeting of the Faith and Order type in North America. Most of the cooperating denominations have already appointed their delegates, a total of 300. An extensive programme of preparatory studies has been outlined and organized by Professor Paul S.Minear. Sixteen study groups in different geographical areas of the U.S. and Canada are now in their second year of preparatory work. Many local councils of churches and other groups are promoting discussions of the theme. Two publications have been issued: "Ecumenical Conversations" and "Conference Profile" for the guidance of study groups and for participants in the Conference. An interesting side-line of the Conference is that it is to be preceeded by a consultation in Oberlin attended by professors who hold chairs of "ecumenics" (or kindred subjects) in American theological schools - the first meeting of this kind.

6. A project for the possible development of a permanent Ecumenical Institute in the U.S.A. falls within the purview of the U.S.Conference more than of the World Council but ought to be reported in order to permit the Executive Committee to give counsel if it cares to do so. The proposal, still in a very embryonic stage, looks toward the establishment of an Ecumenical Institute in Evanston Illinois, under an independent board of directors but with the understanding that the board will include representatives of the several theological schools in the Evanston-Chicago area. The project is not to be launched unless substantial financial resources are found. If they are found, the U.S.Conference will probably be asked to assume some kind of advisory relationship to it.

7. Preparations for the meeting of the Central Committee at Yale Divinity School are already under way. Mr.Charles C.Parlin has consented to serve as chairman of a committee on public relations,

giving reinforcement to Miss Betty Thompson, whom the U.S.Conference is now happy to have on its staff. Miss Eleanor Kent Browne is giving extensive time to arranging speaking and lecturing engagements for ecumenical leaders from other countries who will be coming to the U.S.A. in the summer. This has the double advantage of helping to meet their travel expenses and also of providing opportunities to Americans to receive further ecumenical education. A series of ecumenical institutes, each of a week's duration, is being planned, primarily for ministers, in five different geographical areas by a group of cooperating theological schools in each area. The New York Office is also helping on the American end of various meetings which are to be held at Yale preceeding the meeting of the Central Committee - particularly the "Consultation on the Renewal of the Church" to be held jointly by the Department on the Laity and the Department on the Cooperation of Men and Women in the Church and Society."

* * * *

In discussion Dr.Cavert drew special attention to paragraph 6 of the Report referring to the proposal to create a permanent Ecumenical Institute in the U.S.A. at Evanston. Questions had been raised as to what informal or advisory relationship the W.C.C.might have to the proposed Institute - probably through the U.S.Conference. Dr.Visser 't Hooft said that he would be happy with an advisory relationship but that it would be difficult to go futher. There were many other institutes: where could the W.C.C. stop? It cannot become a kind of accrediting agency for ecumenical institutes; but it can cooperate. Dr.Fry asked if there would be any objection to the U.S. Conference for the W.C.C. having a relationship of some kind to this Institute? Dr.Visser 't Hooft had no objection. Dean Pope thought that some of these new Institutes detracted from Bossey, but Dr. Visser 't Hooft observed that Bossey had no difficulty in recruiting. Dr.Fry hoped that once in five years or so the staff of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey would conduct a course at an American Institute. He also called attention to the great importance of the North American Conference on Faith and Order at Oberlin, which was reported in paragraph 5. This was a most significant event in church life in the U.S.A. Excellent preparatory work was being done by Dr.Paul Minear. Dr.Cavert drew attention to the pioneering venture referred to at the end of paragraph 5 in the form of a first conference of professors holding chairs of "ecumenics" in American Theological Schools. Dr.Fry expressed the Committee's deep appreciation of the work and influence of Dr.Cavert.

28. Information Department

The Director, the Reverend John Garrett, expressed his gratitude to M.Alexandre de Weymarn for his work on the Ecumenical Press Service for more than 20 years. Miss Betty Thompson was now in the New York Office. Miss Roberta Riggleman had joined the Geneva staff.

A remarkable ecumenical exhibition had been organised at Lyon with the technical assistance of the Department. Where local churches were already stirred by the ecumenical idea many opportunities arose for the Department to render similar services. The Department was therefore searching for situations in which ecumenical interest was nascent. A set of display posters and photographic material was being prepared for issue to member Churches and national councils. Experiments were also being made in organising ecumenical teams.

A policy for the coordination of publications had been developed. Libraries and students and friends of the W.C.C., could now receive uptodate lists of the publications which were available. There was hope of promoting the sale of publications to the point at which they were financially self-supporting.

As a practical consequence of the Conference on "Sound and Image" organised by the Department at Bossey in May 1956, the World Council of Christian Education, the United Bible Societies, RAVEMCCO, the World Committee for Christian Broadcasting, Interfilm, and the Christian Cinema and Film Society, were arranging a workshop at Swanwick in England in June, with the object of aiding smaller churches, training leaders and setting standards.

Many pictures and reports had been published, and the lists of correspondents were growing steadily although the Department was being as selective as possible.

Dr.Fry then expressed the gratitude of the Committee to Mr. de Weymarn for his long years of work on E.P.S. The Executive Committee were glad to know that Mr. de Weymarn would continue to work for the Council. Mr. de Weymarn expressed his thanks to his colleagues and especially to his secretary who had worked with him for more than 17 years.

29. Proposal for work in radio and television

Dr. Cavert said that for several months there had been informal conversations in New York, as the result of which he wished to bring the following proposal before the Committee:

'The World Council's Central Committee at Galyatetö discussed the possibility of appointing a staff member to work in the field of radio and television, and gave authority to the Executive Committee to approve a working arrangement for service in radio and television to the World Council of Churches and its constituency, in cooperation with the World Committee for Christian Broadcasting or otherwise, if a satisfactory plan can be arranged by the Secretariat, and funds are in hand for its support.

It was now proposed, after staff discussion that :

The General Secretary together with Dr.Cavert and other members of the General Secretariat be authorized

1. To inquire whether any member Church of the World Council would be interested in providing the services and salary of a staff member to conduct a one-year experiment within the Department of Information of the Council in the field of radio and television.

2. If such an offer is received, to accept it, following agreement on the person to be appointed, and provided funds can be found outside the Council's budget for office and administrative expenses during the period of the experiment.

It is understood that before an approach is made to possible donors for the funds required there will be clearance with

the appropriate officers of the Central Committee in accordance with established procedure.

The form of the above proposal attempts to show a way of attaching to the staff of the Department of Information an officer who will serve for an experimental period of one year in an effort to ascertain in practice whether the World Council of Churches has a distinctive rôle in radio and television, and, if so, what it is.

The new staff member could

a) Keep the World Council of Churches' officers and staff fully informed regarding developments in the organisation and programming of religious broadcasting.

b) Make available information both about material of ecumenical interest already being produced by broadcasting organisations, and about possible materials for ecumenical programmes.

c) Receive and handle requests for simple tape-recordings from the W.C.C. or the member Churches.

d) Act as a friendly consultant to churches in countries where new radio and television organisations are being set up.

e) Distribute as requested some of the useful elementary printed material on the use by religious broadcasters of radio and television - how to train for the job, etc. - produced especially in the U.S.A.

f) Keep before the Information Department and the Churches generally the importance of having a positive attitude towards the use of any opportunities which exist or can be created for ecumenical education and ecumenical information through radio and television.

It would be necessary to take account of the great variety of different forms in which broadcasting is organized from country to country, and of the necessity, if quality programmes are to be produced, of finding the best ways in each situation in which the most experienced broadcasting ability can be used in the service of the ecumenical cause."

Dr.Cavert said with regard to the first point of the proposed resolution, no formal action had been taken but there was a fair prospect that such an offer would be made. No-one yet knew whether the additional resources required which were referred to under paragraph 2 might amount to $ 10,000. He emphasised the experimental nature of the proposal which was being presented for discussion at a very early stage.

Dr.Fry remarked that the proposal would presumably lead to further activity. Mr.Garrett said that the right man in such a post would enable the Department to meet many serious demands which were made upon it even under the one year limitation. After the words "together with Dr.Cavert and other members of the General Secretariat" had been added to the proposal as originally drafted, it was agreed

to authorize the General Secretariat to take further action along the lines described.

30. Representation of the World Council of Churches at the Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation at Minneapolis in August

It was agreed

that the W.C.C. representatives should be the Bishop of Chichester, Metropolitan James of Malta, Dr.Visser 't Hooft and Dr.Harms.

31. Representation of the World Council of Churches at the meeting of the United Bible Societies at Rio de Janeiro in July

It was agreed

that Dr.Rudolph Obermüller, a member of the Committee on Evangelism should be asked to represent the W.C.C.

32. Report of the Division of Ecumenical Action

The Reverend Francis House presented the progress report of the Division as follows:

"1) Department on Cooperation of Men and Women in Church and Society

The staff of the Department continue to be torn between a) the desire to meet as far as possible the overwhelming demands of the women's organisations for articles, documents, visits and plans for speakers concerned with the status of women in Church and Society and b) the particular remit given to the Department by the Assembly - namely to forward the idea of cooperation between men and women.

During this winter the attention of the staff has been specially directed to Africa, in preparation both for the consultation in the Middle East, which had been planned for September 1957 in conjunction with the Laity Department and the study of Rapid Social Change, and for a special women's consultation to be held before the "All Africa Conference" connected with the meeting of the Assembly of the I.M.C. in Nigeria in December. Miss Barot has also made most fruitful visits to Algeria and Tunisia.

It is clear that in the Middle East and in Africa there is a compelling demand at present for a definite Christian witness to be given regarding the emancipation of women and their place in society. Melle Barot herself expresses the view that this necessity for a clear Christian witness may have an excellent effect on the studies of the relations of men and women in the churches which are going on in Europe and in North America and which tend to become rather over-refined.

There is to be a very important Consultation at Yale in July arranged jointly with the Laity Department and a project for a small consultation between theologians , anthropologists and psychologists on the special theme of the Department is also under consideration.

The co-chairman of the Department, The Reverend Gwenyth Hubble, has resigned owing to pressure of other responsibilities, and proposals for another appointment will be made by the Departmental Committee.

2) Laity Department

The statement in "The Ministry of the Laity" which was approved by the Central Committee at Galyatetö has been given a wide circulation in the churches, and echoes of the document and of the speeches made in the discussion of it have appeared in a surprising number of journals. This is clearly a conception which is meaningful for this generation. The booklet called "Signs of Renewal" which describes the work of the Evangelical Academies and the Ecumenical Institute was sold out almost immediately on publication and a second large edition was called for. Pastor Hans-Ruedi Weber has also worked on the various proposals for action by the W.C.C. regarding "Laymen working abroad" and a number of other study projects.

Like the staff of the Cooperation Department, Mr.Weber has a task of extraordinary difficulty in keeping together at least three very diverse aspects of the task given to his Department: (i) assisting the member Churches to receive and propagate widely a fresh understanding of the ministry of the laity, (ii) keeping in touch with the existing men's and women's organisations in the churches (which are often very considerable bodies), and (iii) carrying on the study work of the Department which is indispensable if the World Councilis to continue to serve the Churches in this field. This department is naturally regarded by men's church movements as their own special point of reference in the W.C.C. As was reported by the Staffing Committee it is hoped by the end of the year to receive considerable help with the publications and programme-promoting side of the department through the loan for one or two years by the Presbyterian Church U.S. of a promising younger member of their headquarters' staff.

3) Joint activities of the Laity and Cooperation Departments

Although the special fields of study of these two Departments are distinct, there is a very great overlap between the constituencies which they serve. Accordingly an important step forward in cooperation was taken last summer when it was agreed to hold a joint consultation of the two departments at Yale from July 15 to 20 this summer. This will attempt to bring the best thinking of the two departments hitherto on the renewal of the Church before the judgement of a representative group of churchmen and churchwomen from the U.S.A. and Canada. The response to the invitation to this consultation has been very encouraging.

In preparation for the Consultation, Miss Helen Turnbull of the Cooperation Department and Pastor Weber made a joint visit to the U.S.A. and Canada in the fall of 1956. This was most successful. It was symbolic that Miss Turnbull became the first woman to be invited to attend the annual interdenominational conference of men's work secretaries, and that Mr.Weber was the only man attending the corresponding conference for women's work. Plans for various publications which could go to the constituencies of both Departments are under consideration.

On the other hand, circumstances have compelled the postponement to 1958 of conferences involving both Departments which had been planned for Greece and Egypt.

4) The Ecumenical Institute

The annual Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies which is held in the Institute each winter ends on February 15th.

Copies of the summer programme at the Institute are attached as an appendix to these Minutes.

Members of the Executive Committee who have taken a particular interest in this matter will be glad to know that good progress has been made in building houses for the staff of the Institute.

5) The Youth Department

The staff of the Department is pursuing vigorously the concern regarding the 'integration of youth in the Church' which was committed to it by the Central Committee at Davos. A full report on the result of two years' work will be brought before the Central Committee at Yale. A most important event in this programme will be the holding in the Netherlands in June of a Conference on confirmation and admission to adult church membership. In this project the Youth Department has naturally sought the help of the Faith and Order Department.

The Executive Secretary of the Department, Pastor B.-Th. Molander, has been the leader of the international interdenominational youth team which has been making a valuable series of visits to the churches of Latin America, and which also attended the ULAJE Conference at Baranquilla in Columbia.

The Rev.Philip Potter has spent the last 4 months in New York, where he is carrying on the work hitherto done by the New York office of the Youth Department and at the same time conducting difficult and time-consuming negotiations regarding the future of that office. He will report at the end of February to the next meeting of the Committee of the Youth Department, and we have good reason to hope that a solution which will leave the Youth Department with three functional secretaries each operating on a world-basis will be accepted. Good progress is also being made in putting into operation the plan conceived by the Division of Inter-Church Aid for putting World Youth projects on a better basis.

M.Maurice Costil has been doing excellent work in the Geneva office and Europe and his availability to do so on a part-time basis throughout this winter has alone made possible the dispersion of the other staff.

The office for Ecumenical Work Camps has been without its full staff this winter, but Mrs.Perkins has been carrying on as a part-time assistant to Mr.Perkins until her successor could be found. We are now glad to report that all clearances have been made for an invitation to the Rev. Ralph Weltge. A really world-wide programme of ecumenical work camps has been planned for this year with camps in nearly every continent, and it would not be invidious to mention that the programme of the American Committee is particularly imaginative, including as it does camps for the aid of minority groups from Alaska to Florida.

6) Investigation of W.C.C. action regarding racial tensions

The investigation of ways in which the World Council should be following up the Report of the Evanston discussion on Racial and Ethnic Tensions which was authorized by the Central Committee at Galyatetö has now begun. Thanks to the loan of the services of Dr.Oscar Lee by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and of a grant of $ 3,500 by the Fund for the Republic, the value of various suggestions regarding action by the W.C.C. was being tested out through on the spot discussions with those who were most active in improving racial relations in a variety of different settings. Dr.Lee would be drafting his report in April and it would be reviewed by a small group of experts before it was submitted to the Central Committee at Yale. In the first place the Report would cover only activities which could be financed outside the normal budget in the years 1957 to 1960.

7) Ecumenical Education

The aims and functions of the Division of Ecumenical Action as defined at Evanston refer frequently to what can broadly be called "ecumenical education". "The aim of the Division shall be to serve the churches by promoting the growth of ecumenical consciousness among their members". The functions include in particular"to help in ensuring the participation of local congregations in the life of the ecumenical movement .... and to serve as clearing-house for experiments and new methods of ecumenical education and consultation" In a gloss in the Workbook it is affirmed that this vital contact with the membership of the churches should be a test of all the initiatives of the Division.

The staff of the Division are only now beginning to be able to study what could be done to carry out this remit. It is hoped that a first report will be presented by the Divisional Committee to the Central Committee at Yale. The first task is to decide what is 'ecumenical education'. Definitions range from teaching the history of the ecumenical movement to the description of it as "basic education in Christianity". The most important study of the subject made so far is the Survey of the scope, nature and means of ecumenical education in the U.S.A. which is being undertaken by the N.C.C.C.

In general there is a great deal of evidence of the need for far more effective ecumenical education at the local level in most churches, but it was not clear how the World Council could assist the member Churches in this matter. Experienced observers have concluded that "the nature of the situation calls for large-scale work of publicity and promotion" - but even if the large funds required for such promotion outside the normal budget are available, it is still far from clear that this should be the kind of activity in which the World Council as such should become engaged!

In the discussion following the Report several members of the Committee expressed interest in the problem of clearing the World Council's responsibilities in the field of ecumenical education and a suggestion by Dr.Eugene Smith regarding the encouragements of intercessing prayer was noted for further investigation.

8) Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies

Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported a request from the Chairman of the Board of the Graduate School and the Director of the Ecumenical Institute that the second paragraph of Article 4 of the regulations which now reads:

> "The regular lecturers of the School must include at least one professor of the Theological Faculty of Geneva University"

should be amended to read:

> "The Graduate School and the Theological Faculty of Geneva render assistance to each other, especially with regard to the participation of their teaching staffs in each other's programmes of lectures and seminars. The Graduate School and the Faculty share responsibility for preparing students for the Licentiate and the theological doctor's degree (mention oecuménique) in accordance with the articles 16 to 21 to the rules of the Faculty of Theology."

The Committee agreed to this alteration.

9) World Council of Christian Education

The Committee agreed to authorize the General Secretary to invite two to four representatives of the World Council of Churches to discuss relationships for the next few years with representatives of the World Council of Christian Education.

10) World Christian Youth Commission

It was reported that a consultation with members of Executive and staff of the World's Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., W.S.C.F. and W.C.C.E. would be held at Nyon February 11-13. The W.C.C. would be represented by Dr.Kathleen Bliss, Dean Liston Pope, Metropolitan James of Melita, the Rev.Edward Patey of the British Council of Churches and Dr. Manfred Muller, Chairman of the Jugend-Kammer of the German Churches.

33. Report on "Laymen Working Abroad"

Further discussion was adjourned until the next meeting at which it was expected that the report would be available of a consultation to be held in April between the directors of various forms of training for 'laymen working abroad' in Britain and in Continental Europe.

34. Discussion on the Hungarian Crisis continued

At a later session Dr.Visser 't Hooft reported the results of further discussions of possible lines of action by the W.C.C. The conclusion had been reached that it was better not to publish any kind of reply at present to the accusations which had been made, but that there would be a slightly greater possibility of achieving positive results if there could be personal contact with Mr.Horvath.

Accordingly

i) a meeting with Mr.Horvath had been arranged in Prague on 13th February. The W.C.C. would be represented by Dr.Eugene C.Blake and Dr.Visser 't Hooft

ii) a 'white paper' including all documents and summaries of telephonic conversations would be prepared.

iii) there would be no attempt to approach Dr.Pap before the meeting.

Dr.Nolde said that it had been agreed that it was better for the C.C.I.A. not to be directly involved. The Bishop of Chichester said that after his conversations with Mr.Horvath in Hungary in August he thought that it was very wise to seek this opportunity for personal contact. Dr.Visser 't Hooft and Dr.Payne emphasised the fact that there would be no publicity before the visit to Prague. Dr.Nolde pointed out that the fact that representatives of the World Council had had contacts with a representative of the Hungarian Government would be of great interest to the press. Dr.Visser 't Hooft replied that the World Council could explain after the meeting that it had to take action to deal with a very dangerous situation in the Reformed Church.

Finally it was agreed

to approve the course of action described by the General Secretary, and to leave the Officers to take any further steps that needed to be taken.

35. Future Meetings

The General Secretary reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee would be held as arranged at Seabury House, Greenwich, Sunday, July 28th to midday, Tuesday, July 30th, 1957.
/evening
The following meeting would be held at William Temple College, Rugby, England in February 1958. (Febs. 10 – 14) (Ctee on Progs. + Fin. Febs 5-7)

The next meeting would be held in Istanbul (or Halki) or in Rhodes before the meeting of the Central Committee at Rhodes, 19 - 27 August, 1958. A decision on this point would be taken at the Seabury House meeting. (Aug 13-15)

A warm invitation had been received to hold the February 1959 meeting at Buenos Aires. A meeting of the Committee in Latin America was overdue, but acceptance of the invitation would have to depend on the availability of Executive Committee members for a meeting in Argentina at that time. A decision would have to be taken at Seabury House.

If a clear decision were reached by the Central Committee regarding the holding of the Third Assembly in Ceylon, the Central Committee of 1959 would meet in Western Europe. This would probably be the last meeting of the Central Committee to be held before the Third Assembly, but an enlarged meeting of the Executive Committee might be held in the summer of 1960.

The report was received.

This was all the business.
The Committee adjourned at 11.0 a,m, on Friday February 8th.

REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF INTER-CHURCH AID AND SERVICE TO REFUGEES

The report of this Division with its wide range and great variety of activities is bound to be selective. Much has happened since the meeting of the Central Committee in Hungary and if only some of these things are dealt with now we hope the Committee will not lose its sense of perspective, but will appreciate that the actions selected for special attention are to be seen against the continuing programme of the Division. Indeed the response which has been made to emergency situations would not have been possible at all had not this Division its place in the World Council of Churches as the acknowledgment by the member churches of their acceptance of inter-church aid and the ministry to human need as a "permanent obligation".

Even in the unfolding of the continuing programme of the Division certain interesting events may be noted, for example the increase in the capital of the Ecumenical Church Loan Fund of $85,000; the new opportunity for service in Portugal; the successful completion of the Mission of Fellowship of Pastor Dumartheray to Vietnam which has resulted in a request from the Vietnamese Church to send some one from the World Council to be with them as a permanent liaison; the establishing of a permanent commission in Germany of German church representatives and representatives from the Division for consultation on the Division's work in that country, especially among refugees; the establishing under the general direction of the Scholarship Committee of an Ecumenical Prize Essay competition for younger pastors. All these and many other matters the Division has taken, as it were, in its stride during these last months. We would call the special attention of the Committee, however, to three main features of the Division's work.

I. The first concerns the development of organisational procedures which affect two closely related aspects of the Division's service, that to the churches of the United States and that to the work of the Missions. The negotiation of new relationships with the U.S. churches began on their initiative and was completed by the action of the U.S.Conference of Member Churches in December last. At every point of these discussions the Division's interests have been closely and courteously watched by the leaders of the member churches in the USA. The result of the new arrangements is that the Executive Committee of the Central Department of Church World Service of the National Council of Churches in the USA , enlarged by the addition of representatives of the Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council, becomes the Advisory Committee of the U.S.Conference of Member Churches. This new arrangement, it is hoped, will make easier an acceptance by the U.S. churches of their share of responsibility for the Division's total programme and budget. These new arrangements have been accepted by the Administrative Committee and the endorsement of the Administrative Committee's action is sought from this Committee and from the Central Committee. The director of Church World Service, Dr. Norris Wilson, becomes the new secretary of the Advisory Committee and the chairman of Church World Service, Dr. Gaither Warfield, will be the Advisory Committee's

new chairman. As these new arrangements become effective the Administrative Committee records its gratitude to Dr. Franklin Fry, the former chairman of the Advisory Committee, and Dr. Wayland Zwayer, its former secretary, for their great services to the Division since 1950 when the Advisory Committee was established.

Closely allied to this development have been the negotiations with the International Missionary Council and missionary boards and societies which have been carried through during the last two years. These have resulted in an agreement concerning the fields of the Division's service in lands outside Europe, clearance as to procedures for building the programme of the Division in those lands, and the enlargement of the Administrative Committee membership to include representatives from Asia and the mission boards. We have welcomed back to the Committee Mr. Ranjit Chetsingh in his new capacity as secretary of the National Christian Council of India, and we have welcomed as a new member Mr. Simon Marantika of the National Council of Churches of Indonesia. The Committee will recall that the Central Committee left one place open on the Administrative Committee to be filled on the nomination from the Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council of Churches in the USA. That nomination has now been made in the person of Dr. Virgil Sly, Division Executive Chairman and Executive Secretary of the United Christian Missionary Society (Disciples of Christ). The appointment of Dr. Sly to membership of the Administrative Committee is sought from this Executive Committee.

These discussions of procedures are often arid and uninspiring, but in work of this kind where flexibility, resilience and a capacity for speedy response to emergency situations are so important such periodic reexamination and overhaul of organisation is a necessity.

II. The two main emergencies in which the Division has been involved are those of Hungary and of the Middle East. Dr. Chandler will report specifically about the actions taken by the Service to Refugees, both in Austria and in the countries of second asylum, and the plans for the future. Broadly speaking the emergency has so far moved through four phases.

The firstwas a very short one. The news of the uprising on October 23rd led us to prepare for a flood of refugees, but owing to the course of events only a few came at that time. The second phase was the temporary success of the insurrection which led to an opening of the frontiers and the energies of the Division's staff were directed towards sending necessary supplies to the Hungarian churches. Accordingly, on November 2nd a joint convoy organised by the Austrian Hilfswerk under the auspices of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches, of nine trucks went through to Budapest and the goods were distributed by the churches. Dr. Chandler and Mr. Foster, the Austria director of the Refugee Service, accompanied the convoy as far as Györ where it was necessary for them to turn back with other British, American and German colleagues. The convoy was taken on by Austrian drivers and returned safely on Saturday, November 3rd.

The third phase opened with the repressive action of Russian troops on November 4th. The tide of refugees which had already begun

to flow fast became a tidal wave as for several days and nights five and six thousand crossed into Austria. All possible resources were brought together to furnish the essential necessities of shelter, food, clothing and medical care and the work of dispersion to countries of second asylum began rapidly.

We are now in the fourth phase of this work, the beginning of a very long task of caring for these people, their resettlement, their integration into the life of the community where they find asylum, and the care of the sick and the aged.

May I say that the churches were among the first on the scene and they will be there when other agencies have withdrawn and the plight of the Hungarian refugee no longer commands the headlines of the news. The watch on the Hungarian side of the Austrian border is so close now that very few are coming, but in these latter days there has been an increased flow into Yugoslavia, where 16,500 have now sought refuge.

The Administrative Committee at its meeting from January 31st to February 1st faced squarely the likelihood of a long term commitment in the service of these people and would share their conviction that this will be necessary with the Executive Committee.

Three actions marked the appeal for Hungarian relief. When the news of the uprising broke churches were alerted by a cable and a following letter to stand ready to help. This was followed by a further cable asking for money and goods, not only for refugees, but for rehabilitation inside Hungary. Eventually the appeal was made in the following terms: In an appeal for $600,000, $350,000 was for Hungarian refugees and refugees from Eastern European countries, $225,000 for the rehabilitation of the churches within Hungary and other Eastern European countries, and $25,000 for the purchase of special supplies. The total raised by the churches of which we have been informed is over 1,100,000 dollars. The amount given or pledged for the World Council of Churches is $833,656. To this must be added $2,825 raised as a result of an appeal by the students of the Graduate School of Bossey to their fellow students in seminaries around the world. Mr. Northam will present papers about all this in the course of the Finance Committee's report. We cannot but be grateful for this response which has certain outstanding features, for more than 60% of this sum has come from non-American sources, and the churches in Asia and Latin America have indicated their participation in this appeal.

Unfortunately we have not been able to do very much for the needs inside Hungary. A freight carload of materials was sent in on January 8th under the auspices of LWF and WCC and was distributed by the churches there. Some thousands of individual packages have been sent to people in Hungary and the Division has had a small and experimental operation of this kind. Although there is a clear need and we have tried to find ways of meeting it we have not yet been successful, but we shall continue our efforts.

Arrangements have been made to take special care of the nineteen Hungarian Reformed and Lutheran theological students and a joint scheme under the general programme of the Scholarship Committee has been worked out for them.

In all this undertaking too the Division has sought to work closely with the ecumenical organisations in Austria and with the Austrian churches and to strengthen them for the new responsibilities that they have been called upon to face.

The other crisis is that of the Middle East. Here the response of the churches to the appeal for help has been less dramatic, but may in the long run prove to be no less significant. The Near East Christian Council and the Relief Committee in particular had made emergency plans against the possibility of a crisis, and when the emergency arose the plans were put partially into effect as British and American personnel had to withdraw. Mr. and Mrs. Willard Jones, however, and some of their helpers remained in Jordan, in the old city of Jerusalem. Communications were maintained both with Willard Jones and with Mr. Leslie Putnam, the general secretary of the YMCA in the new city of Jerusalem. When the Gaza strip passed into the hands of Israel Mr. Putnam attempted to initiate a programme among the refugees there and managed to do some work for them. The Division was able to send aid to him from gifts made by the American churches and from Great Britain. After the cease fire Mr. Russell Stevenson, associate secretary of Church World Service, went quickly to Cairo. He went in the name of the World Council of Churches and carried messages to the leaders of the Orthodox, Coptic and Evangelical churches. He returned via Geneva and reported to us here. On the basis of his report an appeal was launched for materials and money. American churches through CWS have sent in quantities of supplies, and money has been sent to the Joint Committee of the Voluntary Agencies in Cairo for work that they are doing among the victims of the war in Egypt of whom it is estimated there are some 120 000, mostly from the Port Said area. Dr. Ulrich van Beyma has recently toured the whole area, visiting Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Israel, returning last week. Altogether some $25,000 in cash has been sent to the Division for the Middle East and other monies and goods have gone direct.

The fact is that in this whole crisis the Division has tried in the name of the churches to minister to all who have suffered, in Egypt, Jordan and Israel, and has done so in the hope that a witness might be borne in the name of all the churches to the gospel of reconciliation.

III. The third feature of the Division's work in these recent months relates to new possibilities that have opened up before us. The General Secretary has reported on his visit to North Africa as a result of which the Division has undertaken to support CIMADE in sending a CIMADE team to Algeria. There are in hand resources at any rate for the first year of this work.

A proposal has also been made to send an international team to Tunisia and this project is now under discussion. In the course of the next week or two Mademoiselle Barot, Dr. van Beyma and Mr. Metzler will visit Tunisia to discuss with people there the possible lines of a programme.

At the request of the Protestant churches in Italy the Division is working out plans to send a village team to southern Italy. This will be an undertaking similar in form and in purpose to the Greek Team except that in this case the team will be under Italian direction and will be mainly composed of Italian members.

The Administrative Committee also resolved to offer what service may be called for by the Asian churches after the Prapat conference in providing a person to deal with the interests of inter-church aid in the eventual form of organisation the Asian churches establish for their needs.

Three comments may be made in concluding this report.

1. The ability to respond to the emergencies which have taken place derives from the fact that in the Division the World Council of Churches has an instrument for coordinating and directing help to the places of need almost all over the world. What has happened in Austria and the Middle East is to be regarded not as something new but as an intensification of the service that has already been given.

2. In all the Division's work, in consultation both in staff here in Geneva and with colleagues in the churches, an attempt is made to maintain a continuing enquiry into the significance of inter-church aid and the service to refugees. as an interpretation of the ecumenical vision. This concern will provide the background for the work of the Consultation of the Division to be held in Eastbourne, England, at the end of May and the beginning of June this year. It is not difficult to list what is being done for the churches, but it is less easy and perhaps more important to try and understand what this service is doing to the churches.

3. It must be acknowledged that the churches have a long way to go in developing the concept of ecumenical inter-church aid. A response to the appeal for the relief of human need is almost always forthcoming and the churches have organisational equipment to meet these appeals. The churches, too, know the meaning of the missionary enterprise the margins of which the work of the Division now touches. They are also strongly aware of the meaning of inter-church aid within the same confessional family, but there is much to be done in developing the concept of continuous ecumenical inter-church aid. The aftermath of every crisis makes the development of this concept ever more urgent.

One of the greatest tasks before the Division is, therefore, to help the churches understand that in this work of inter-church aid is the witness of diakonia which stands with kerygma and koinonia as the testimony to the Gospel, preparing the way for the proclamation of the Gospel and corroborating it. This is a work not simply of human pity or compassion, but of the Gospel itself. It is a work integral to the life of the Church and therefore indispensable to its witness.

Leslie E. Cooke.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

First Estimate of Expenditure on General Budget for 1956 and Suggested Annual Expenditure Level for 1957

Swiss Francs

	1956		1957 Suggested Expenditure Level
	Budget	Estimated Actual	
General Secretariat:			
Geneva Fr.	217,632	226,232	245,750
New York	188,320	192,022	n/c
Far East	17,120	12,358	n/c
Joint Committee IMC/WCC	16,050	14,523	17,760
(sub-total)	(439,122)	(445,135)	(468,950)
Division of Studies:			
Divisional Staff	139,900	128,433	127,130
Faith and Order	61,400	60,107	66,800
Church and Society	44,650	49,999	n/c
Evangelism	30,240	30,124	31,340
(sub-total)	(276,190)	(268,663)	(269,920)
Division of Ecumenical Action:			
Divisional Staff	57,800	54,593	63,300
Ecumenical Institute	256,800	257,583	n/c
Youth : Geneva	86,350	87,653	80,500
New York	61,200	54,677	n/c
Laity	45,100	47,508	49,100
Co-operation of Men and Women	39,600	40,537	n/c
(sub-total)	(546,850)	(542,551)	(550,500)
Division of Inter-Church Aid:			
Divisional Staff	40,230	40,078	n/c
Library	23,500	23,152	n/c
Department of Information	172,000	176,015	160.200
Finance and Administration	-	-	-
Grant to CCIA	235,400	235,400	n/c
Grant to E.P.S.	27,500	21,400	n/c
General Reserve	85,600	85,600	n/c
Reserve for Third Assembly	85,600	85,600	n/c
Fr.	1,931,992		1,947,400

Geneva

January 28, 1957

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

First Estimate of Expenditure on General Budget for 1956 and Suggested Annual Expenditure Level for 1957

U.S. Dollars

	1956		1957 Suggested Expenditure Level
	Budget	Estimated Actual	
General Secretariat:			
Geneva	50,848	52,858	57,417
New York	44,000	44,865	n/c
Far East	4,000	2,887	n/c
Joint Committee IMC/WCC	3,750	3,393	4,150
(sub-total)	(102,598)	(104,003)	(109,567)
Division of Studies:			
Divisional Staff	32,686	30,008	29,703
Faith and Order	14,346	14,044	15,608
Church and Society	10,432	11,682	n/c
Evangelism	7,066	7,038	7,322
(sub-total)	(64,530)	(62,772)	(63,065)
Division of Ecumenical Action:			
Divisional Staff	13,505	12,755	14,790
Ecumenical Institute	60,000	60,183	n/c
Youth : Geneva	20,175	20,480	18,808
New York	14,300	12,775	n/c
Laity	10,537	11,100	11,472
Co-operation of Men and Women	9,252	9,471	n/c
(sub-total)	(127,769)	(126,764)	(128,622)
Division of Inter-Church Aid:			
Divisional Staff	9,400	9,364	n/c
Library	5,491	5,409	n/c
Department of Information	40,187	41,125	37,430
Finance and Administration	-	-	-
Grant to CCIA	55,000	55,000	n/c
Grant to E.P.S.	6,425	5,000	n/c
General Reserve	20,000	20,000	n/c
Reserve for Third Assembly	20,000	20,000	n/c
	451,400	449,437	455,000

Geneva

January 28, 1957

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Report of Committee on Programme and Finance to Executive Committee

1. The Committee on Programme and Finance was appointed by the Central Committee at its meeting in July/August 1956 under the following decision:

> "that a special committee of seven be appointed by the Officers of the Central Committee with representatives of the Finance Committee, the programme divisions and the Joint Committee, to examine the programme and budget of the World Council of Churches and to consider in particular:
>
> i) the preparation of a General Budget which would carry the basic programme of the World Council and which could be supported on a fairly-shared basis by the whole constituency of the World Council, and
>
> ii) the provisions under which churches and other givers might support such projects and additions to the basic budget as might prove feasible and advance the programme of the World Council."

The following were appointed to the Committee:

Dr. Eugene C. Blake - Chairman

Members:	Staff Consultants:
Dr. Hanfried Krüger	Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft
Mr. Francis P. Miller	Dr. R. S. Bilheimer
Dr. Ernest A. Payne	Dr. L. E. Cooke
The Rev. Kenneth Slack	The Rev. Francis House
Dr. Eugene Smith	Mr. Frank Northam
Count S. van Randwijck	

2. The committee held its first meeting on February 2 and 3, 1957. Mr. Francis P. Miller was unable to attend the meeting but all other members and staff consultants were in attendance throughout and the committee had the advantage of the attendance of Dr. S. M. Cavert.

Report of first meeting

3. The committee received and examined two papers prepared by the staff, the one setting out the chronological development of the programme of the World Council of Churches and indicating the manner in which and the date at which the various divisions and departments had been brought into being and the second indicating the General Budget and other resources available for the financing

of the programme. The Committee also received a document prepared by the staff presenting a first outline of the general task to be accomplished and discussed this question in the light of the terms of reference from the Central Committee.

4. The committee reached the conclusion that its work could not be restricted to the purely financial question. The committee had been called into existence because of the inter-relationship of programme and finance. Any report on the financial aspects of the problem would therefore first have to define basic presuppositions concerning the organisational nature of that World Council of Churches which the member churches desire, the degree to which the structure approved by the Evanston Assembly satisfactorily provides the desired organisation and the determining factors which should govern the size of the organisation. In the light of such factors it would then be possible to seek to formulate proposals for the provision of a financial basis adequate to meet the demands of that organisational structure.

5. The conclusion suggested in paragraph 4 raises the question of the adequacy of the terms of reference quoted in paragraph 1 and the committee agreed to seek guidance as to whether the Executive Committee would support a recommendation to the Central Committee in the following sense:

> that there be added to the terms of reference of the Committee on Programme and Finance, after the phrase "to examine the programme and budget of the World Council of Churches" the following: "and the nature and scope of the programme which the World Council should carry on in the light of its declared principles, the expressed needs and desires of the churches and their ability to support the programme"

6. A first review of the existing structure led to the provisional conclusion that the decisions taken by the Evanston Assembly had in practice proved to be sound and wise. The experience of the past two and a half years had revealed no points at which the existing structure needed basic revision and the committee found no grounds for serious consideration of the elimination or reduction of any part of the existing structure in the period which will follow the Third Assembly. A review of the adequacy of present financial resources for the existing programme revealed a clear need in the period prior to the Third Assembly for increase in revenue. A study of the financial needs to permit the present programme to be adequately maintained without increase in the period following the Third Assembly, indicated the clear conclusion that substantial increase in the budget would be necessary. The conclusions in respect both of the next four years and of the period after the Third Assembly were reached on the assumption that in addition to regular income for the General Budget, resources would be available for special projects.

7. The committee examined the concept of project income supplementary to the General Budget revenue. The committee felt that the definition given to the concept of projects by the Executive Committee provided a sufficient provisional definition. Briefly, that concept is that a project must be self-contained and neither represent a continuing programme, nor work which would develop into a continuing programme; that support may be sought (subject to proper clearance) from member churches or from sources outside the member churches; and that the seeking of revenue should be in a manner which will not interfere with normal income. The committee plans further to study and clarify this definition as well as the procedures for seeking project income and for controlling project income, both by establishing limits so that it shall not become excessive in relation to the basic General Budget revenue and by ensuring that there shall be some reasonable balance between the project income available to the various divisions and departments within the World Council. It is clear that uncontrolled projects could distort the programme of the World Council of Churches.

8. The committee recognized that developments in connection with a possible integration of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council might have a considerable and clear bearing upon its work. It was observed that the budget would be affected and probably the needs increased by developments in this connection, not only if plans for integration were adopted but also if they were not adopted. Whilst recognizing that any discussion of this question would at present be premature the committee gave some preliminary consideration to the problems which might arise. Plans were approved to keep the committee in close liaison with the committees considering integration.

9. The committee concluded that its terms of reference cover the problem of financing world assemblies and gave preliminary consideration to this question, particularly in the light of the inadequacy of the present annual allocations from General Budget revenue of $ 20,000 p.a. to provide for the total expenses of world assemblies. The question was raised as to whether each assembly should be a special project or whether it should be carried by the basic budget of the World Council of Churches. The preliminary judgment of the committee appears to be that a larger share of the basic Assembly budget should, if possible, be carried on the basic budget.

Future Procedure

10. The committee agreed to ask the Chairman to report to the Executive Committee on this first meeting. Time did not permit the presentation of this report to all members of committee for discussion and approval before its presentation to the Executive Committee.

11. The committee recognized with regret that it would be impossible to meet in the period immediately preceding the Central Committee meeting in the summer of 1957 and therefore felt that a report along the lines of this present report, revised in the light of the discussion at the Executive Committee meeting, and of any developments with regard to integration with the International Missionary Council, would have to be presented to the Central Committee in the summer of 1957.

12. The committee agreed that its next meeting should be a three day meeting from February 5 - 7, 1958 in London in order that a second report could be presented to the Executive Committee at its meeting in Rugby in February 1958.

13. The committee agreed that its broad programme should be that in the light of its meeting in February 1958 and of the discussion at the Executive Committee in that same month there should be prepared a provisional report to be presented to the Central Committee meeting in the summer of 1958; that that provisional report should then be developed by subsequent meetings in the light of the discussion at the Central Committee meeting in 1958, and perhaps with the member churches with a view to the presentation to the Central Committee meeting in 1959 of a final report; that in the light of the discussion in 1959, the report should be finalized as a report from the Central Committee to the Third World Assembly.

14. The committee agreed to seek the direction of the Executive Committee as to whether the broad outline indicated in this report meets with approval and the programme of action outlined above represents that programme which the Executive Committee would wish it to follow.

February 6, 1957